

# Investigation and management of severe disorders of insulin sensitivity – a practical update

ABCD, London, November 2012

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Metabolic Research Laboratories,  
Institute of Metabolic Science

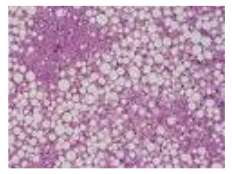
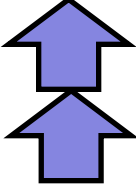




“P.C.O.S.”, subfertility



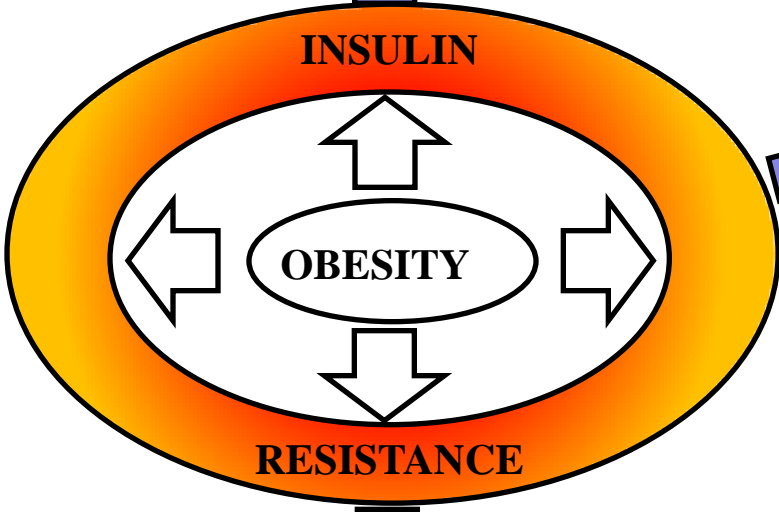
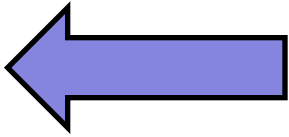
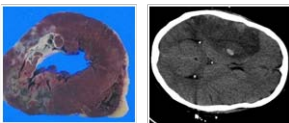
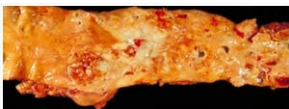
cirrhosis



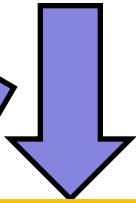
NAFLD + Metabolic dyslipidaemia



atherosclerosis



$\beta$  cell failure



hyperglycaemia



retinopathy



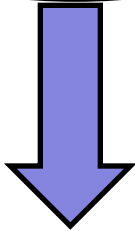
+

nephropathy

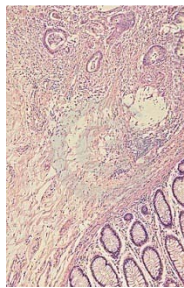


+

neuropathy



Increased risk of malignancy



Acanthosis nigricans

# Monogenic Severe Insulin Resistance

## Lipodystrophy



*BSCL2*



*PPARG*



*PLIN*



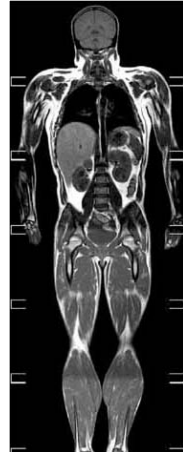
*AGPAT2*



*CAVI*



*LMNA*



*CIDEA*

## Signal Transduction Defects



*AKT2*

*PIK3R1*



*INSR*



## Complex syndromes

- Werner
- Bloom
- MAD
- Myotonic Dystrophy
- Alström
- MOPDII
- Bardet Biedl

# Severe Insulin Resistance: Clinical Features

## Common to all Causes

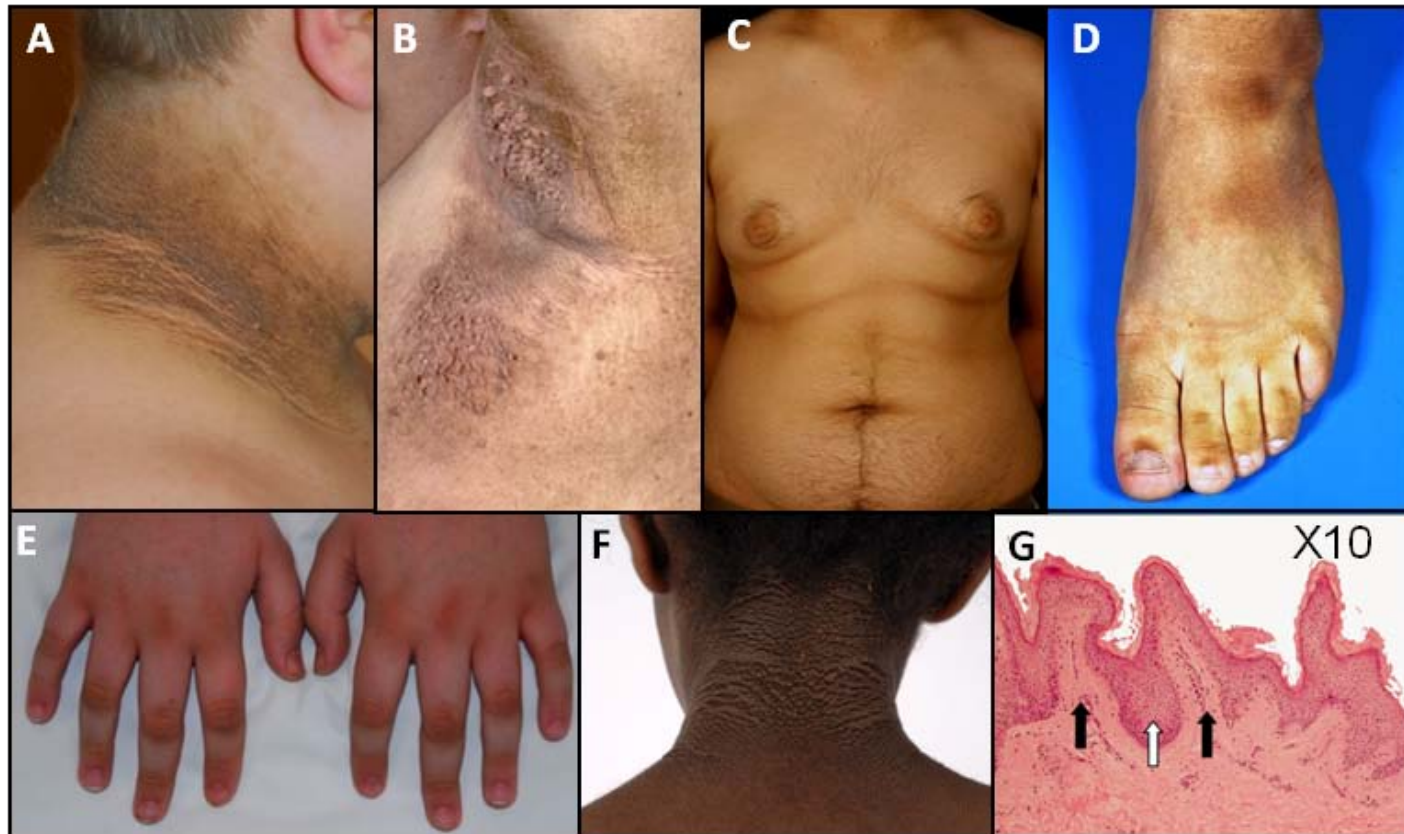
(Consequences of impaired insulin action/hyperinsulinaemia)

- **Glucose Homeostasis**: Hypoglycaemia (fasting or reactive), IGT, Diabetes
- **Skin**: Acanthosis Nigricans/Skin tags/abnormal hair growth
- **Ovary**: PCOS, clitoromegaly.
- **Growth**: Impaired linear growth, acral enlargement, muscle hypertrophy

## Variable

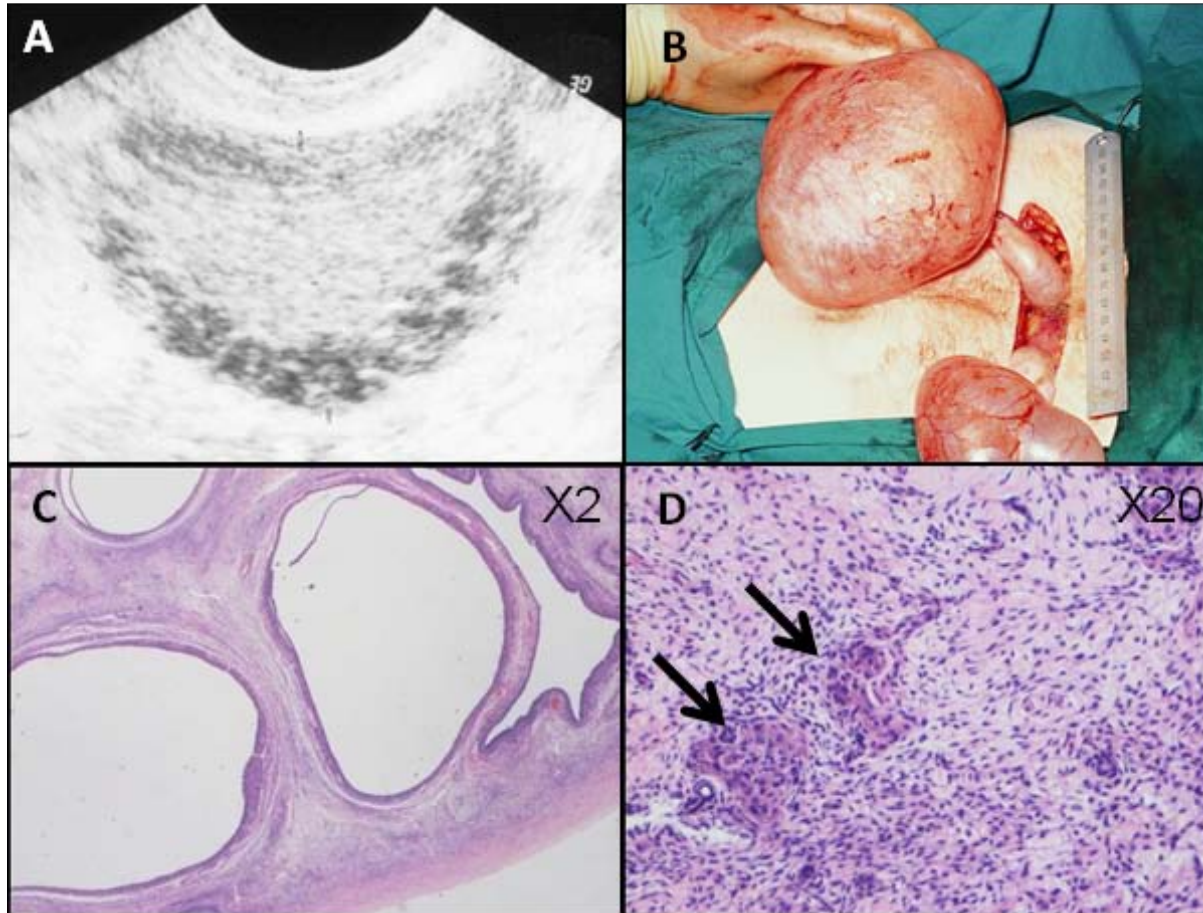
- Hypertension
- Obesity
- Dyslipidemia
- Steatohepatitis
- Syndromic features e.g lipodystrophy

# Acanthosis Nigricans





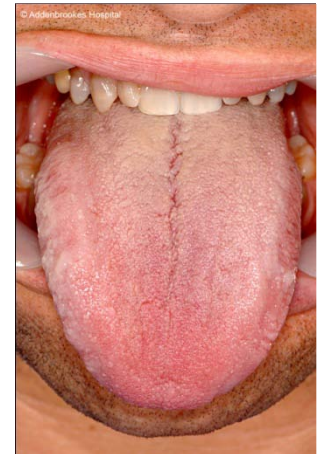
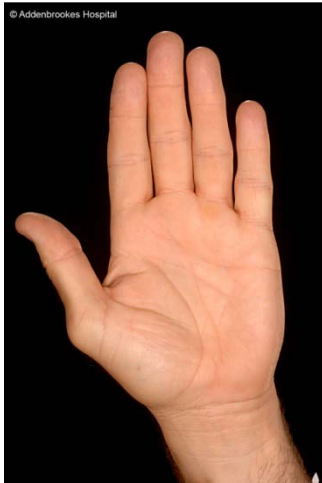
# Ovaries and Severe Insulin Resistance



# Pseudoacromegaly



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# Lipodystrophy



# Definition of Lipodystrophy

- Diagnosis remains largely clinical/subjective, although collateral support from MRI, DXA, clinical anthropometry may be garnered
- Conventionally denotes regional or global lack of adipose tissue despite adequate nutrition
- Conceptually linked to obesity with metabolic complications by the ideas of adipose tissue expandability and “adipose failure”

# Clinical Presentation of Lipodystrophy

- Regional or global lack of adipose tissue, especially femorogluteal
- **Muscular** appearance
- **Severe hypertriglyceridaemia**
- Previous episodes of **pancreatitis**
- **Severe fatty liver** with or without inflammation/fibrosis
- Features of severe insulin resistance (acanthosis nigricans, DM, severe PCOS)

# Inherited Lipodystrophies

## Congenital Generalised (AR)

### 1) **BSCL2**

most severe  
developmental delay common  
commonest in Caucasians

### 2) **AGPAT2**

Some sparing  
No developmental delay  
Commonest in Africans

### 3) **PTRF**

Myopathy common

### 4) **CAV1**

Single case

### 5) **Unknown (<5%)**

## Familial Partial (AD)

### 1) **LMNA**

lack of truncal/limb fat  
xs on face and neck

### 2) **PPARG**

lack of limb fat  
xs hypertension

### 3) **AKT2**

lack of limb fat

### 4) **PLIN**

lack of limb fat

### 5) **CIDEA**

lack of limb fat; DKA

### 6) **Unknown (c. 40%)**

Complex

# Dunnigan Köbberling Lipodystrophy (FPLD2; LMNA exon 8-12 mutations)



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# PPAR $\gamma$ Ligand Resistance Syndrome (FPLD3; PPARG mutations)

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# Familial Partial Lipodystrophy Type 1



- Most common type
- “Cushingoid” fat topography
- May be familial
- Most likely genetically heterogeneous
- Role of sex hormones?
- Role of intra-adipose steroid metabolism?



# Congenital Generalised Lipodystrophy Type 1 (biallelic mutations in *BSCCL2*)



**DEFECTIVE ADIPOCYTE DIFFERENTIATION**

# Acquired Lipodystrophy

## GENERALISED



## PARTIAL

**CLINICAL IMAGE  
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- Usually upper body only
- Relatively little IR/DM
- Risk of MCGN; surveillance needed

# Acquired Lipodystrophy/ Adipose Failure After Childhood Malignancy



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# Principles of Management of Lipodystrophy

## **Lipodystrophy = “Adipose Failure”**

### 1. Offload adipose tissue

- Low fat diet
- “obesity therapies” – orlistat, bariatric surgery
- leptin

### 2. Maximise insulin sensitivity

- Exercise
- Metformin, (pioglitazone)

### 3. Rationally targeted therapy (for the future)

- Anti-lipolytic agents in “lipid droplet” LD?

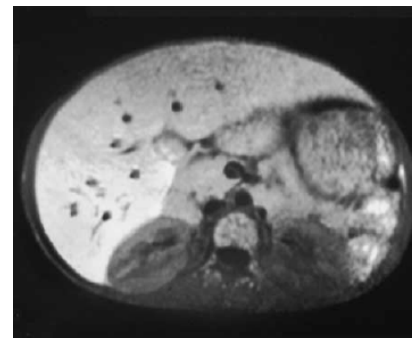
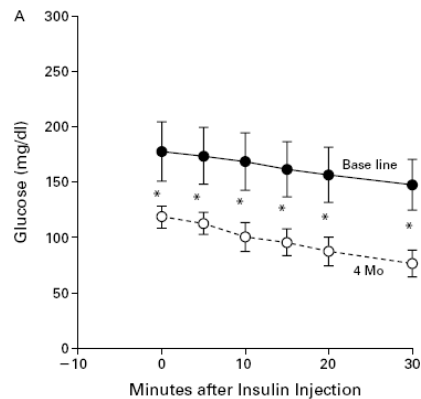
### 4. Treat dyslipidaemia, hypertension



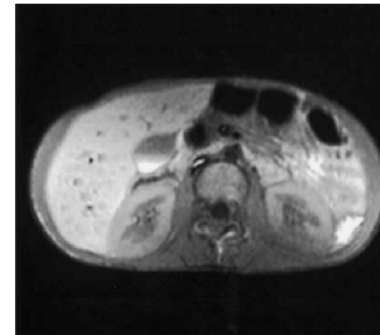
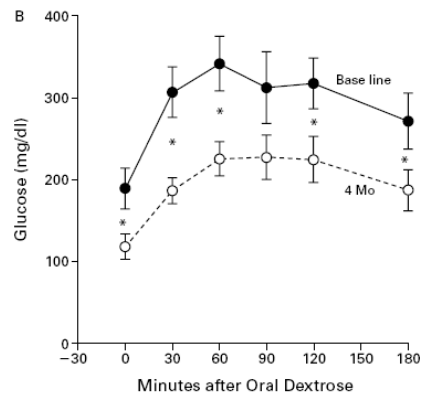
# Leptin Therapy in Lipodystrophy

## LEPTIN-REPLACEMENT THERAPY FOR LIPODYSTROPHY

ELIF ARIOGLU ORAL, M.D., VINAYA SIMHA, M.D., ELAINE RUIZ, N.P., ALEXA ANDEWELT, B.S., AHALYA PREMKUMAR, M.D., PETER SNELL, PH.D., ANTHONY J. WAGNER, PH.D., ALEX M. DEPAOLI, M.D., MARC L. REITMAN, M.D., PH.D., SIMEON I. TAYLOR, M.D., PH.D., PHILLIP GORDEN, M.D., AND ABHIMANYU GARG, M.D.



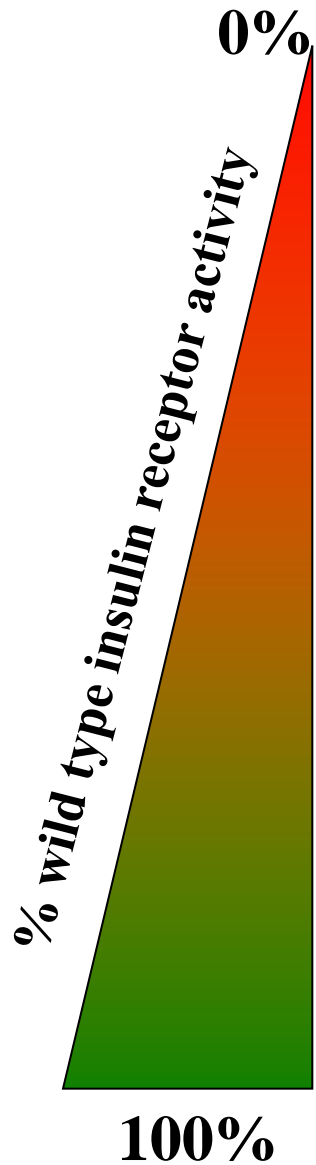
**baseline**



**4/12**

# Primary Insulin Signalling Defects

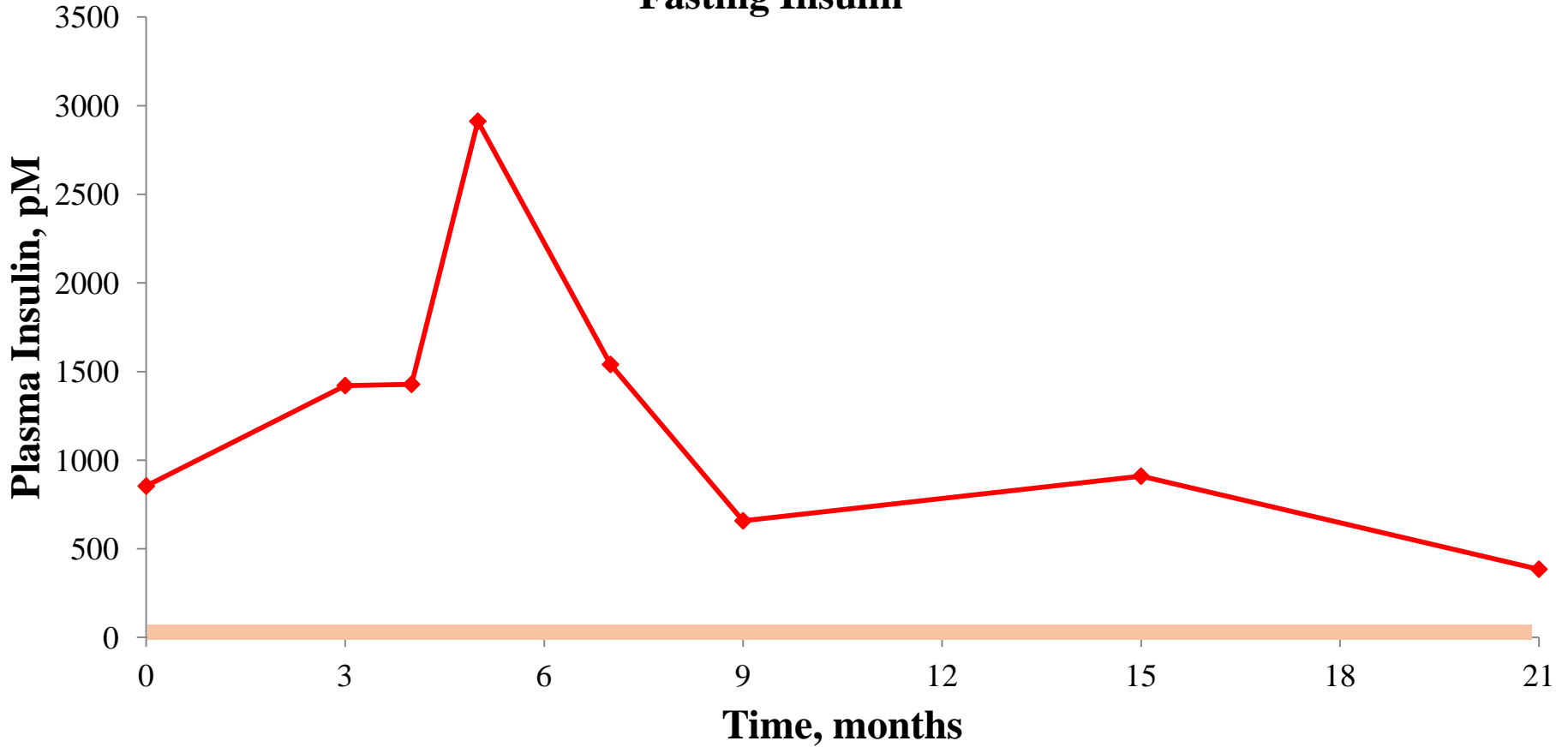
# Genetic Insulin Receptoropathies



- Donohue Syndrome
- Rabson-Mendenhall Syndrome
- Type A Insulin Resistance
- HAIR-AN



# Fasting Insulin



**METF'MIN**

**METFORMIN**

**ROSIGLITAZONE**

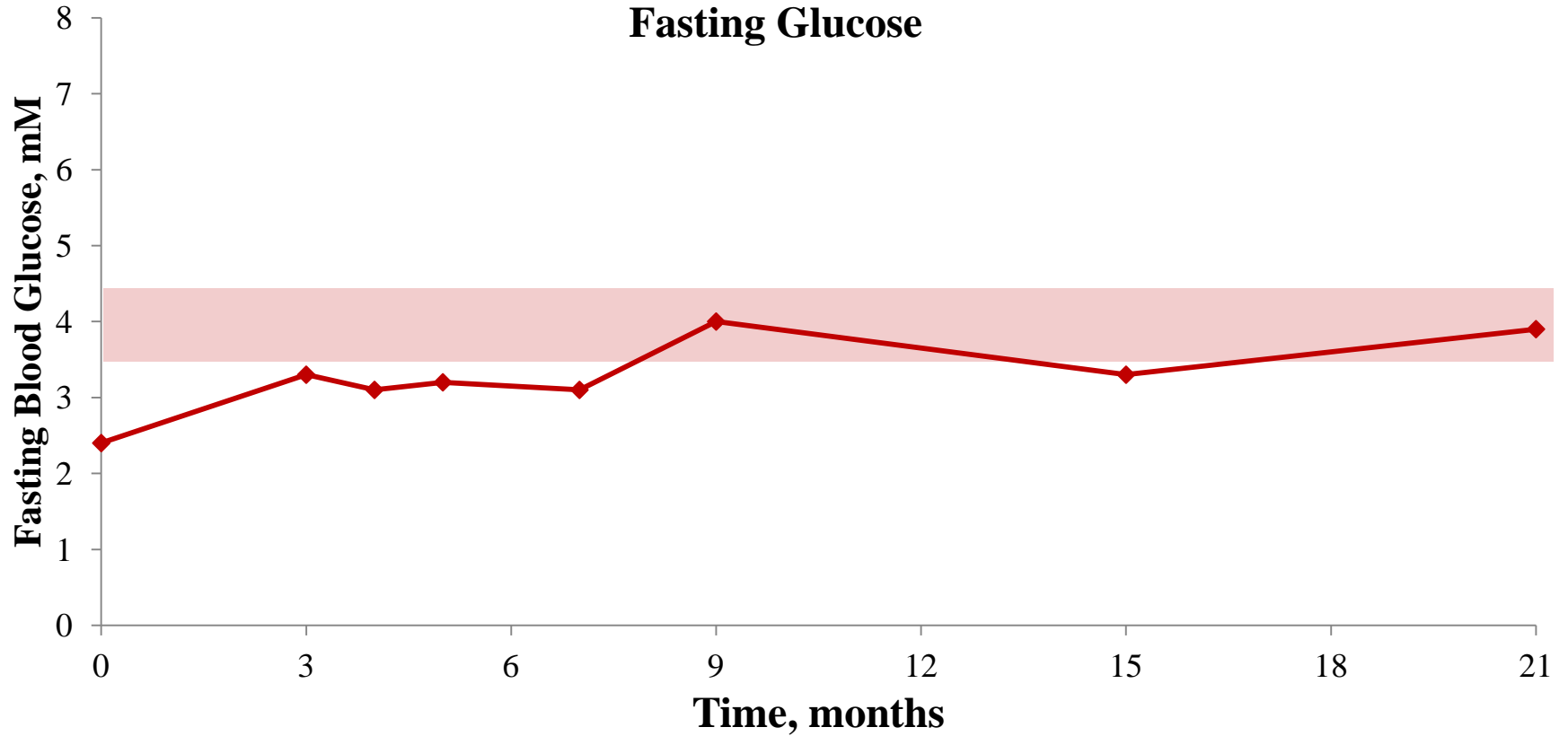
**ACARBOSE**

**SPIRO**

**SPIRONOLACTONE**

**FLUTAMIDE**

# Fasting Glucose



**METF'MIN**

**METFORMIN**

**ROSIGLITAZONE**

**ACARBOSE**

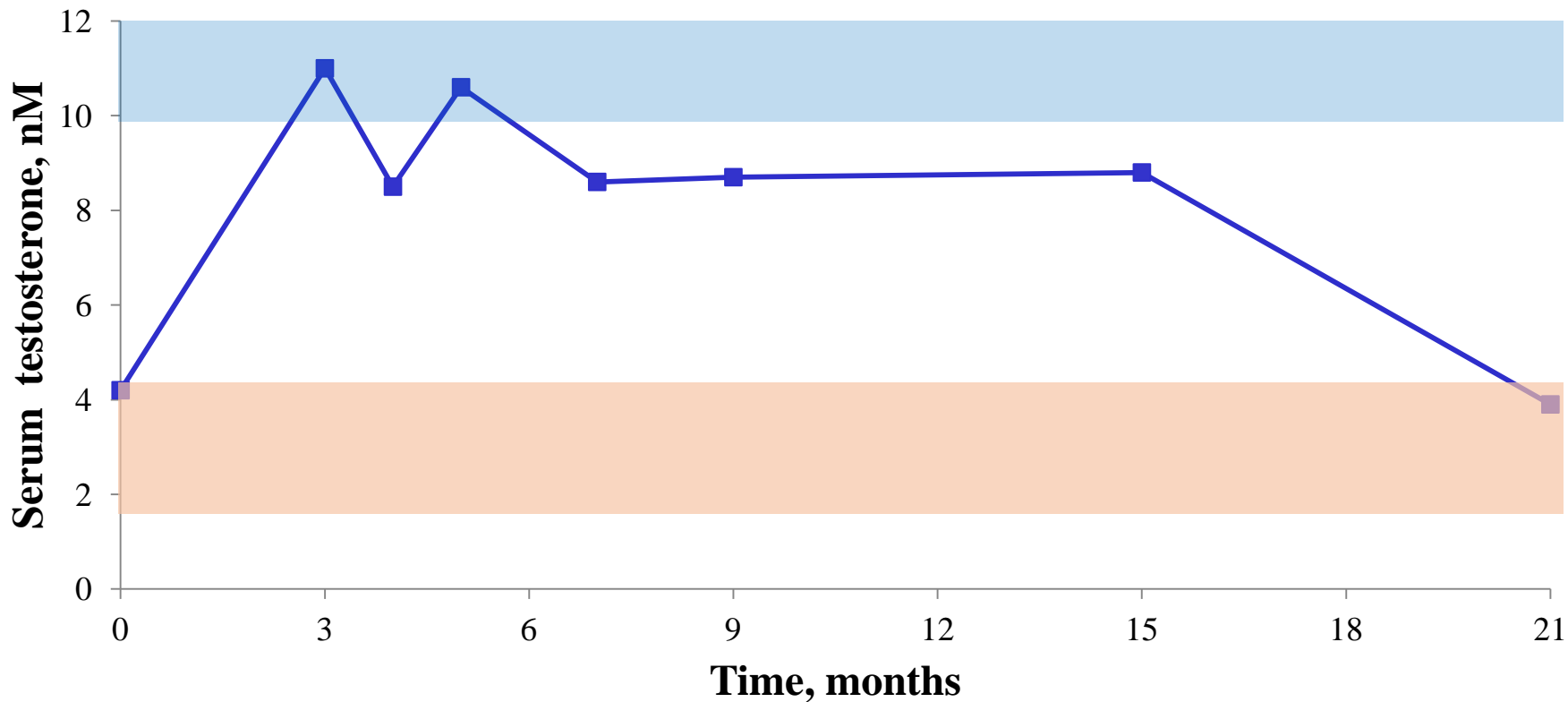
**SPIRO**

**SPIRONOLACTONE**

**FLUTAMIDE**



# Testosterone



**METFORMIN**

**METFORMIN**

**ROSIGLITAZONE**

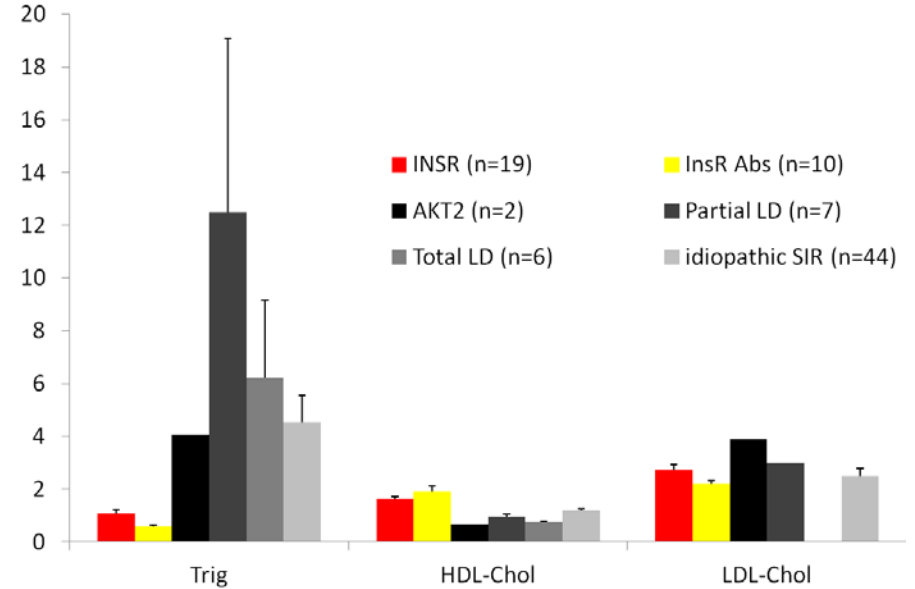
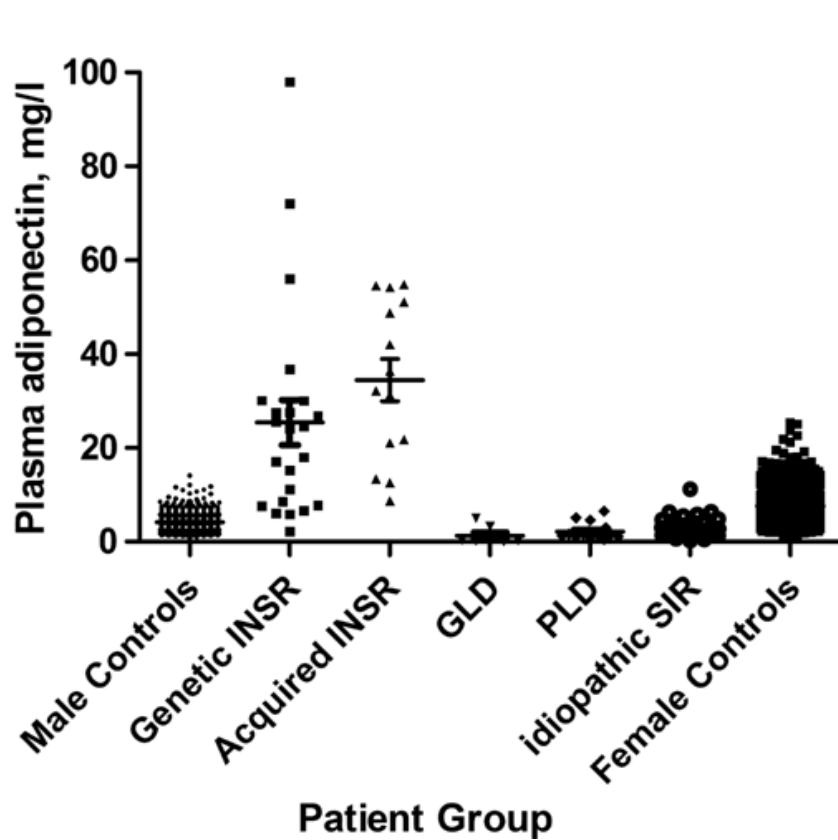
**ACARBOSE**

**SPIRO**

**SPIRONOLACTONE**

**FLUTAMIDE**

# Insulin Receptoropathy: Distinct from Prevalent Insulin Resistance



# Type B insulin resistance

- A syndrome of acquired, extreme insulin resistance mediated by insulin receptor blocking antibodies
- Often in association with other antibody-mediated autoimmune disease
- Many cases remit spontaneously with time
- May be treated effectively with multimodal immunosuppression

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# Anti-Ins Abs: Case History

86 year old man

60 years well-controlled T1DM

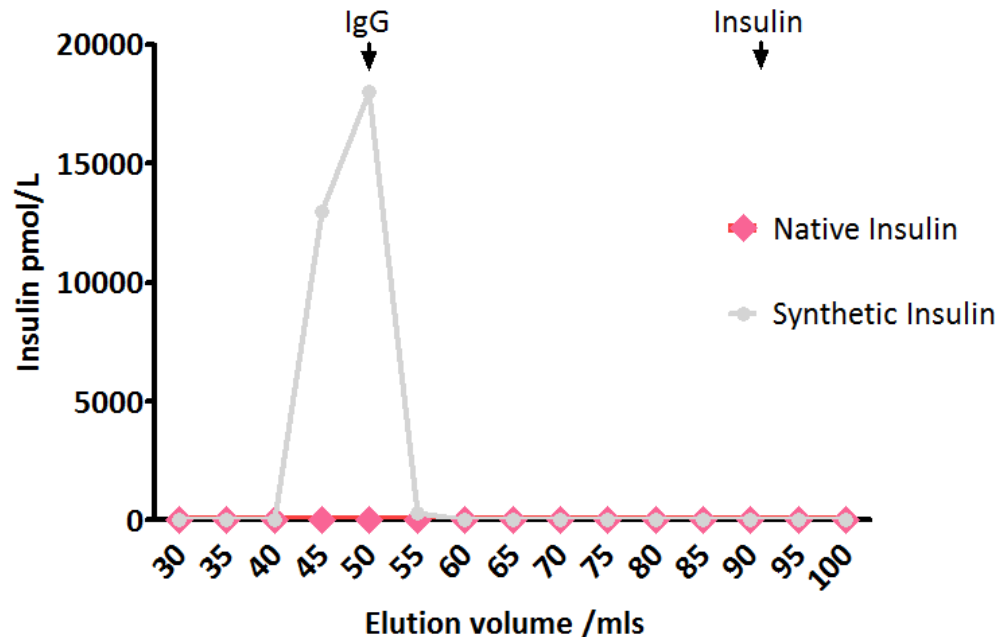
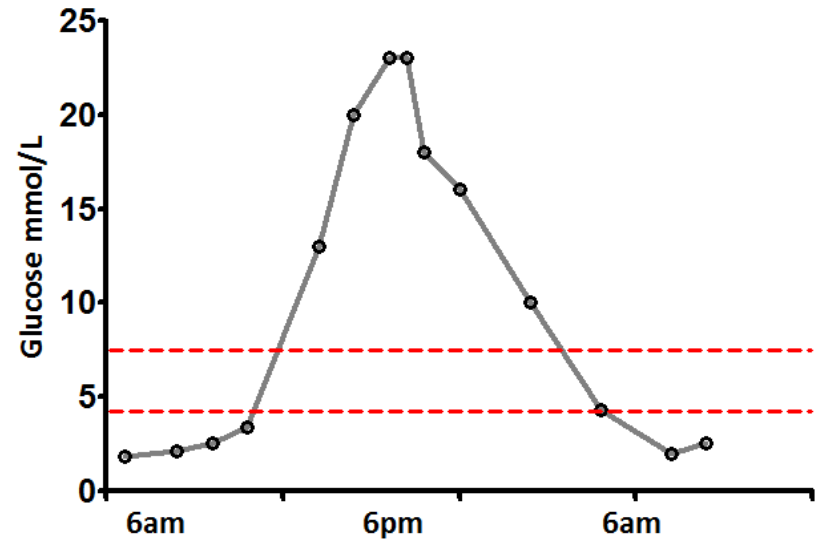
Several months intractable morning hypoglycaemia (< 2mM) + daytime hyperglycaemia.

Previously good control on Levemir/Lispro.

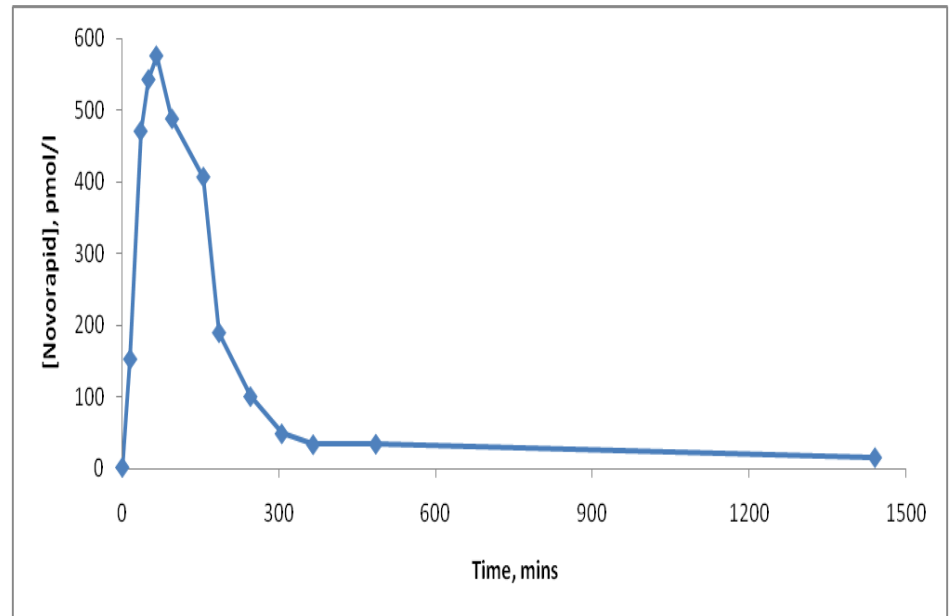
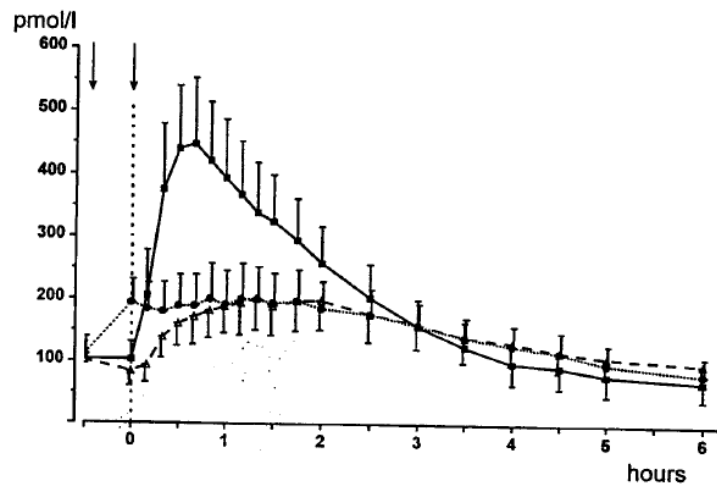
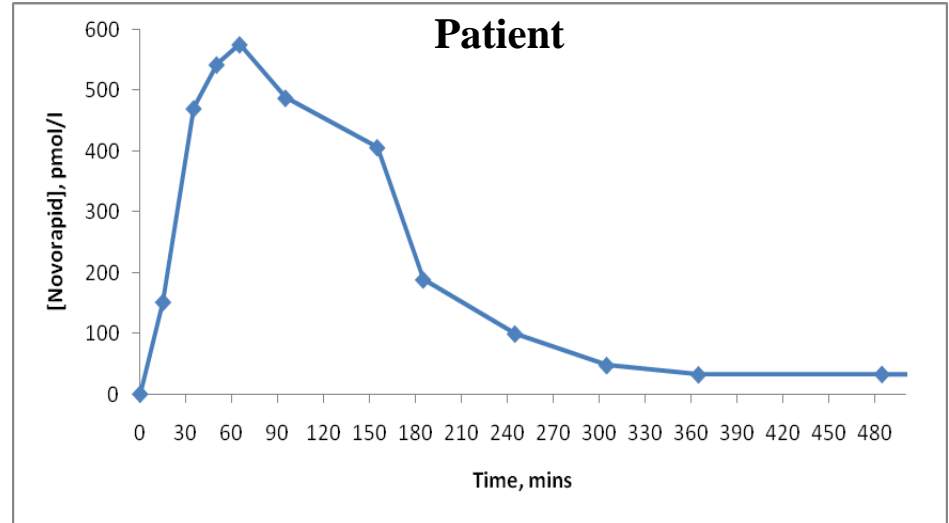
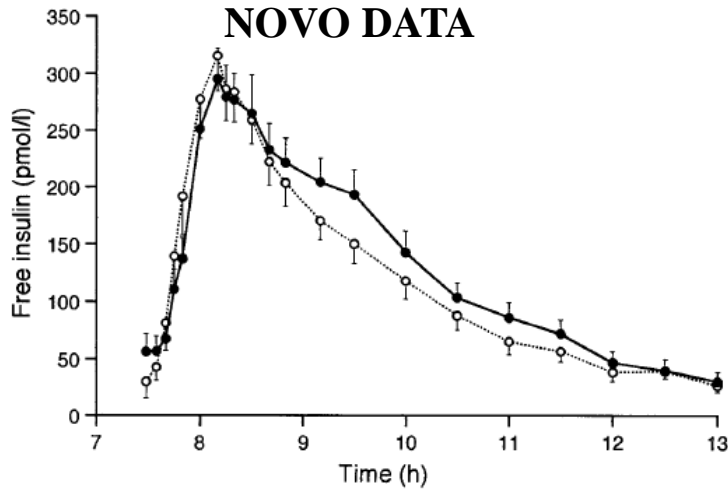
Dose adjustment ineffective

Insulin 2h after 24u Lispro:

- DELFIA assay [native human insulin]: **undetectable**
- MERCODIA assay [native AND short acting analogue insulin]: **37,108 pmol/L** (expected c. 500pmol/L)
- C-peptide undetectable



# “Subcutaneous IR”: Analogue Insulin Absorption Test



**Figure 2**—Mean postprandial serum insulin profiles in 22 subjects with type 1 diabetes after injection of insulin aspart (■—), human insulin immediately before the meal (△—), or human insulin 30 min before the meal (●··). The two arrows indicate subcutaneous injection times, and the vertical dotted line indicates the time of meal.

# Summary: Investigation of Severe IR

## Initial

- Fasting glucose, insulin\*, OGTT
- Fasting lipids
- Testosterone
- Leptin, adiponectin, IGFBP-1, SHBG
- Clinical photography/MRI/DXA

*\*Consider type of insulin assay, and ability to pick up native and analogue insulins*

## More targeted

- Genetic testing (most commonly LMNA, PPARG, INSR)
- Anti-Ins Abs (“macroIns”)
- Anti-InsR Abs
- C3, C4, C3 nephritic factor



# Summary: Management of Extreme Insulin Resistance

## Managing the consequences

Acanthosis Nigricans

PCOS:

Hirsutism, Amenorrhea, Alopecia

Reactive hypoglycemia

Diabetes (e.g. U500 insulin)

Dyslipidemia

Steatohepatitis

Maxillofacial Surgery

## Improving Insulin sensitivity

Diet and Exercise

Metformin

TZDs

Acarbose

**GLP1 agonists**

**DPPIV inhibitors**

Leptin

rhIGF-1

# National Severe Insulin Resistance Service

- **National Specialised Commissioning Team (NSCT)**  
funding from April 2011
- Specialised service defined as <400 patients
- **Weekly multidisciplinary clinic**
  - Aim 30 new/70 follow up outpatients per annum
  - 4 patients per week
- **Weekly MDT meeting:** Consultants (adult/paediatric), dietitian, specialist nurses, admin support
- **Inpatients**
  - 8 per annum
- **To date 56 patients; 12 on leptin**

[severeinsulinresistance@addenbrookes.nhs.uk](mailto:severeinsulinresistance@addenbrookes.nhs.uk)

Cambridge University Hospitals   
NHS Foundation Trust

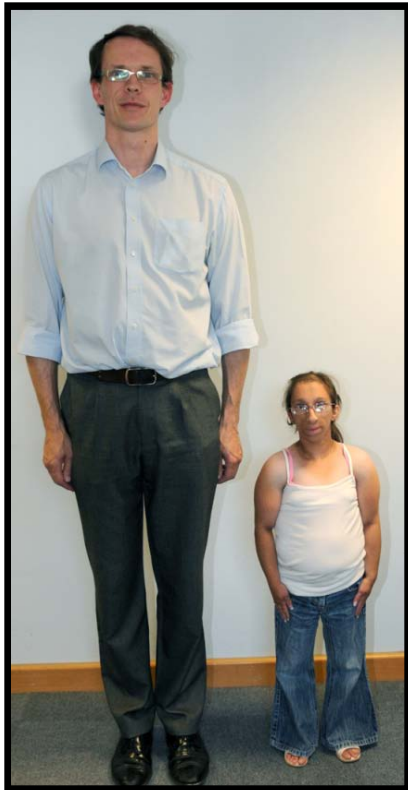


Specialised Services

# Referral Criteria

- **Patients with severe insulin resistance and/or lipodystrophy:**
  - **Donohue Syndrome** or **Rabson Mendenhall Syndrome** with confirmed extreme hyperinsulinaemia
  - Clinically diagnosed **lipodystrophy** (generalised or partial)
  - **Unexplained severe insulin resistance:**  
with a **BMI < 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup>** AND acanthosis nigricans AND/OR severe hyperinsulinaemia (fasting insulin > 150pM or peak plasma insulin on oral glucose tolerance testing > 1,500pM)

# Rarer Conditions



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# Summary

- Severe IR should be suspected in anyone with acanthosis nigricans
- Aggressive “PCOS” is the commonest manifestation in women of reproductive age
- Hypoglycaemia may commonly be seen in the early stages
- Careful clinical assessment of adipose distribution is essential.
- Determined insulin sensitisation and replacement are key
- Leptin and IGF1 have an important place in management for some cases
- It is rational to treat patients with lipodystrophy and severe metabolic derangement in a similar manner to patients with morbid obesity with metabolic complications, though large scale evidence for efficacy of GLP1 agonists, bariatric surgery and other treatments is not yet available.

# National Severe Insulin Resistance Service Team

Professor Stephen O'Rahilly

Dr David Savage

Dr Robert Semple

Professor David Dunger (paediatrics)

Dr Anna Stears

Dr Rachel Williams (paediatrics)

Julie Harris – specialist nurse

Claire Adams - specialist nurse

Charlotte Jenkins-Liu – specialist nurse

Catherine Hames – dietitian

Barbara Williams - administrator

Dr David Halsall

Mr Keith Burling

Dr Becky Treacy

..and many in research labs

**welcome**trust

Fellow

**NHS**

Specialised Services

MRC

Centre for  
Obesity and Related  
Metabolic Diseases

**NHS**

National Institute for  
Health Research