



# Demystifying Maturity-Onset Diabetes of the Young (MODY)

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## Objectives:

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants should be able to:

- Discuss the major characteristics of MODY and list the 3 most common types.
- State 3 patient features that may be suspicious for a diagnosis of MODY.
- Analyze case studies and determine if MODY testing should be considered.

\*I have no conflicts of interest to disclose

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## Maturity-Onset Diabetes of the Young (MODY) – What is it??

- Rare monogenic form of diabetes
- Accounts for 2-5% of all diabetes cases
- Frequently misdiagnosed as Type 1 (T1) or Type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2 DM)
- At least 13 different gene mutations may result in MODY

Timmit J, Bellanne-Changélot C, et al. (2005). Diagnosis and management of maturity-onset diabetes of the young. *Treatments in Endocrinology*, 4(1): 9-18.  
Lindle, R.D., Palmer, J., Schlot, N.C., & Lermmark, A. (2016). Diabetes at the crossroads: relevance of disease classification to pathophysiology and treatment. *Diabetologia*, 59(1): 13-20. doi: 10.1007/s00125-015-3789-z.

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### History of MODY

- First reported in 1974 by Tattersall, et al
- Recognized a familial form of non-insulin dependent diabetes distinct from T1 and T2 DM
- Noted an autosomal dominant pattern of inheritance usually presenting by age 25
- Labeled “MODY” reflecting terms in use at that time for presentation as “juvenile or maturity onset” diabetes

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### History of MODY (continued)

- Molecular genetics of MODY first defined in the 1990s
- Found that the genetic mutations cause diabetes due to interference with beta cell function
- Initially recognized disease causing mutations in genes encoding:
  - HNF4a (MODY 1)
  - GCK (MODY 2)
  - HNF1a (MODY 3)
  - Insulin promoter factor 1 (MODY 4)
  - HNF1b (MODY 5)

Fanjiang SS, Bell GI. (2011). History, genetics, pathophysiology, and clinical decision making. *Diabetes Care*. Aug; 34(8): 1878-1884. DOI.org/10.2337/dci11-0035

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### Importance of Correct Diagnosis – Why Does it Matter?

- MODY diagnosis may impact treatment
  - Some MODY types can be treated with oral sulfonylureas
- Surveillance for complications differs based on MODY type
  - Some MODY types have similar risks as T1 and T2 DM, some do not
- Ability to screen at risk family members
- Ability to perform genetic counseling

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## Brief Review of T1 and T2 DM

- Multi-factorial inheritance
- Polygenic

	Pathophysiology	Features	Treatment
Type 1 DM	Autoimmune destruction pancreatic beta cells	Absolute insulin deficiency	Dependence on exogenous insulin to live
Type 2 DM	Insulin resistance and relative beta cell deficiency	Typically occurs in the setting of obesity	Lifestyle changes, oral anti-diabetic agents, +/- insulin

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## GENETICS OF T1 & T2

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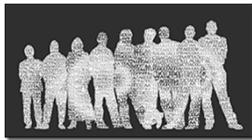
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## Multi-Factorial/Polygenic Inheritance

- Multiple genetic factors combine with environmental factors
- Tend to see clustering in families
- Clinical genetic testing is typically not looking for polygenic risk factors because most play an extremely small role



CHAI, H. (2008) Polygenic inheritance and gene mapping. Nature Education 1(1) 17

Slide borrowed with permission from Laura Baker, Licensed Genetic Counselor, NAIDHC

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### MULTI-FACTORIAL/POLYGENIC INHERITANCE

- Various genetic defects are simply risk factors
- Other environmental factors add in
- It takes a while for all of the “marbles” to add up
- At some point, the jar fills up and disease manifests

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### Quick Genetics Review

- Each chromosome is made up of one large DNA molecule
- A gene is a segment of DNA that encodes a protein product
- A protein is a complex compound made up of hundreds to thousands of amino acids (building blocks of proteins)

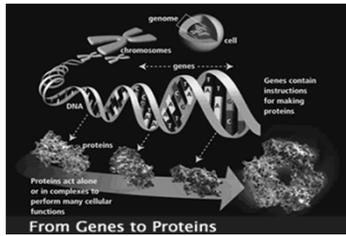


Image courtesy of the U.S. Department of Energy Human Genome Program, <http://www.ornl.gov/hgmis>.

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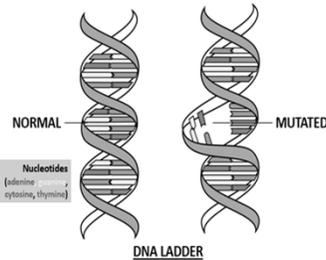
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### The Basics



- Many genetic conditions are caused by mutations in genes that affect the structure and/or function of a protein
- Mutation = an abnormality in how a gene is sequenced
- By definition, a mutation must cause a problem in the corresponding protein

<https://sites.jmu.edu/gbio103/bbq4b-draft-what-causes-gene-mutations-leading-to-cancer/>

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# Maturity-Onset Diabetes of the Young (MODY)

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## Monogenic Disease

- Caused by one defect in a single gene present in all cells of the body
- Function of the affected gene determines the nature of the respective disease
- Requires genetic testing for definitive diagnosis
- Monogenic diseases are rare, but affect millions world-wide
- Estimated that 10,000 human diseases are known to be monogenic

[http://www.who.int/genomics/public/genetic\\_diseases/en/index2.html](http://www.who.int/genomics/public/genetic_diseases/en/index2.html)

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## CHARACTERISTICS OF MODY

**Dominant pattern of inheritance**  
-hx of diabetes in one or two consecutive generations

**Usual onset in childhood, adolescence, or young adulthood**  
-typically before age 25

**Risk of micro and macrovascular complications differ based on MODY type**

**Treatment differs based on MODY type**

Naylor R, Philipson LH. (2011). Who should have genetic testing for maturity onset diabetes of the young? *Clinical Endocrinology*. 75(4): 422-426.

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## INDEX OF SUSPICION



### NEW OR PREVIOUSLY DIAGNOSED INDIVIDUAL WITH ATYPICAL FEATURES:

- Absence of pancreatic auto-antibodies
- Evidence of endogenous insulin production beyond typical honeymoon
- T2 diagnosis in young individual not significantly overweight or without signs of insulin resistance
- Diabetes in 2 or more consecutive generations

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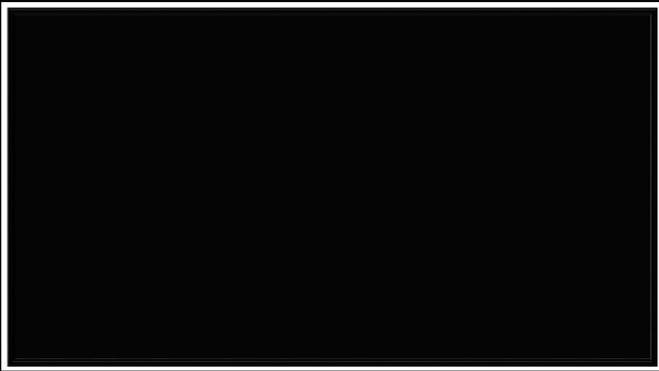
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## MODY GENE MUTATIONS

- At least 13 disease causing mutations have been identified
- Novel mutations continue to occur and more will likely be recognized
- Affected genes are responsible for beta cell development, function and regulation
- Gene defects result in disordered glucose sensing and insulin secretion

Leslie R.D., Palmer J, Schloot NC, Lermmark, A. (2016). Diabetes at the crossroads: relevance of disease classification to pathophysiology and treatment. *Diabetologia*. 59(1): 13-20. DOI 10.1007/s00125-015-379-z

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# TESTING STRATEGIES

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## Sequencing Tests: 3 Basic Strategies

- Single gene → stepwise  
(Sanger Sequencing Method)
- Multiple gene panel  
(Next Generation Sequencing)
- Whole exome or whole genome  
sequencing



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## STEP-WISE APPROACH

- Screening of the most common MODY genes with Sanger Sequencing (SS) method
- Often leaves less common MODY genes un-tested → possible missed diagnosis
- Time consuming & ultimately more costly than Next Generation Sequencing (NGS)
- Recent studies show MODY mutations identified by NGS in patients with previous negative testing by SS

Suspa, M., et al. (2015). Genetic testing for monogenic diabetes using targeted next-generation sequencing in patients with maturity onset diabetes of the young. Polish Archives of Internal Medicine. 125(11): 845-851

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## Next Generation Sequencing

- Newer targeted NGS allows for sensitive, quicker, and more cost-effective genetic analysis
- Allows for parallel sequencing of many sections of DNA simultaneously
- Checks all coding exons of all genes on the panel
- Enables testing of all genes on the panel at the same cost as testing only a few of the more common mutations

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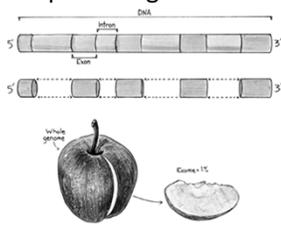
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## Whole Exome Sequencing – sequencing the exons, coding regions of all possible genes at once



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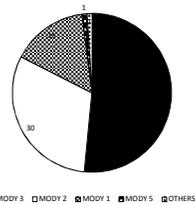
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## Common MODY Types

- Hepatocyte Nuclear Factor 4Alpha (HNF4A/MODY 1)
  - Third most common type
  - Similar characteristics to MODY 3
  - Accounts for ~15% of all MODY cases
- Glucokinase (GCK/MODY 2)
  - Second most common type
  - Accounts for ~30% of all MODY cases
- Hepatocyte Nuclear Factor 1Alpha (HNF1A/MODY 3)
  - Most common type
  - Accounts for ~50% of all MODY cases
- Hepatocyte Nuclear Factor 1Beta (HNF1B)
  - Fourth most common type
  - Has a lot of extra-pancreatic features
  - Accounts for ~1% of all MODY cases
- Defects in PDX1, NEUROD1, KFL11, CEL, PAX4, INS, BLK, ABCC8, KCNJ11 account for less than 1% of all MODY cases



McDonald, T.J., Ellard, S. (2013). Maturity onset diabetes of the young: Identification and Diagnosis. Annals of Clinical Biochemistry, 50(3): 403-415. doi: 10.1177/0004636323483458.

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**MODY 1 (HNF4A)**

GENE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heterozygous mutation in gene encoding transcription factor HNF4A</li> </ul>
Mutation Effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alters gene expression for proteins responsible for glucose transport/metabolism</li> <li>• ↓ beta cell proliferation, ↑ apoptosis</li> </ul>
Patho-physiology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beta cell defect with progressive deterioration in glucose tolerance</li> </ul>

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**MODY 1 (HNF4A) - continued**

Complication Rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Micro/macrovacular complications frequent</li> <li>• Similar rates to Type 1 and Type 2 DM</li> </ul>
Treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sulfonylurea sensitive</li> <li>• May progress to insulin</li> </ul>
Special Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uncommon cause of diazoxide responsive hyperinsulinism in infancy</li> </ul>

McDonald, T.J., Elard, S. (2013). Maturity onset diabetes of the young: Identification and Diagnosis. *Annals of Clinical Biochemistry*, 50(5): 403-415. doi: 10.1177/0004562113481458.  
 Anik, A., Cath, G., Baci, A. & Böber, E. (2015). Maturity-onset diabetes of the young (MODY): An update. *Journal of Pediatric Endocrinology and Metabolism*, 28(3-4): 251-263. doi: 10.1515/jpem-2014-0384

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**MODY 2 (GCK)**

GENE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heterozygous inactivating mutation of GCK gene</li> </ul>
Mutation Effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encodes glucose sensing enzyme glucokinase</li> <li>• Compromised glycemic threshold for appropriate insulin release</li> </ul>
Patho-physiology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glucose sensing defect with non-progressive fasting hyperglycemia</li> </ul>

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### MODY 2 (GCK) - continued

- Complication Rate**
  - Rare incidence of micro/macro vascular complications given mild hyperglycemia
- Treatment**
  - Medication is not usually required
  - Healthy diet and exercise
- Special Features**
  - Occasional cause of persistently impaired glucose tolerance after gestational diabetes

McDonald, T.J., Ellard, S. (2013). Maturity onset diabetes of the young: Identification and Diagnosis. *Annals of Clinical Biochemistry*, 56(5): 403-415. doi: 10.1177/0004563213483458.  
Anik, A., Cath, G., Baci, A. & Böber, E. (2015). Maturity-onset diabetes of the young (MODY): An update. *Journal of Pediatric Endocrinology and Metabolism*, 28(3-4): 251-263. doi: 10.1515/jpem-2014-0384.

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### MODY 3 (HNF1A)

- GENE**
  - Heterozygous mutation in gene encoding transcription factor HNF1A
  - High penetrance - ~80% of individuals with this mutation develop DM by age 35
- Mutation Effects**
  - Alters gene expression for proteins responsible for glucose transport and metabolism
  - ↓ beta cell proliferation, ↑ apoptosis
- Pathophysiology**
  - Beta cell defect with progressive deterioration in glucose tolerance

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### MODY 3 (HNF1A) - continued

- Complication Rate**
  - Micro/macrovacular complications frequent
  - Similar rates to Type 1 and Type 2 DM
- Treatment**
  - Sulfonylurea sensitive
  - May progress to insulin
- Special Features**
  - Uncommon cause of diazoxide responsive hyperinsulinism in infancy

McDonald, T.J., Ellard, S. (2013). Maturity onset diabetes of the young: Identification and Diagnosis. *Annals of Clinical Biochemistry*, 56(5): 403-415. doi: 10.1177/0004563213483458.  
Anik, A., Cath, G., Baci, A. & Böber, E. (2015). Maturity-onset diabetes of the young (MODY): An update. *Journal of Pediatric Endocrinology and Metabolism*, 28(3-4): 251-263. doi: 10.1515/jpem-2014-0384.

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### MODY 5 (HNF1B)

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|------------------|---|--|
| GENE             | } | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Heterozygous mutation in gene encoding hepatic transcription factor 2(TCF2)</li></ul>  |
| Mutation Effects |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• HNF1B expressed in early embryonic development in pancreas, kidney, liver and GU tract</li></ul>                                     |
| Patho-physiology |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Beta cell defect with progressive deterioration in glucose tolerance</li><li>• Insulin resistance is an additional feature</li></ul> |

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### MODY 5 (HNF1B) - continued

- |                   |   |   |
|-------------------|---|---|
| Complication Rate | } | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Micro/macrovacular complications frequent</li><li>• Approximately 50% develop end stage renal disease before age 45</li></ul> |
| Treatment         |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Early treatment with insulin</li><li>• Not sulfonylurea sensitive</li></ul>   |
| Special Features  |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Predominant extra-pancreatic feature is renal disease</li><li>• Most common renal malformation is renal cysts</li></ul>       |

McDonald, T.J., Ellard, S. (2013). Maturity onset diabetes of the young: Identification and Diagnosis. *Annals of Clinical Biochemistry*, 50(5): 403-415. doi: 10.1177/0004563213483458.  
Ashik, A., Cohn, G., Beck, A., & Rippey, S. (2010). Maturity onset diabetes of the young (MODY): An update. *Journal of Pediatric Endocrinology and Metabolism*, 28(3-4): 251-263. doi: 10.1515/jpem-2014-0384.

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## TREATMENT STRATEGIES

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## TREATMENT

- Many forms of MODY require treatment with insulin similar to T1 DM
- Insulin needs are often less compared to individuals with T1 DM
- MODY 1 & 3 are sulfonylurea sensitive
- ~30% of those with MODY 1 & 3 later progress to needing insulin therapy

Timmit J, Bellanne-Changtelot C, et al. (2005). Diagnosis and management of maturity-onset diabetes of the young. *Treatments in Endocrinology*, 4(1): 9-18.

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## Sulfonylureas: Mechanism of Action

- Lower blood sugar by stimulating the pancreas to release more insulin
- Increase tissue sensitivity to insulin
- Only effective when some pancreatic beta cell activity is present
- Work by blocking ATP sensitive potassium channels

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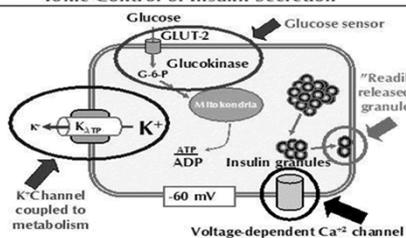
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## HOW SULFONYLUREAS WORK

### Ionic Control of Insulin Secretion



Göpel et al. *J Physiology*. 2000. (528): 509-520.

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### SULFONYLUREA DOSAGE FORMS

- **Amaryl® (Glimiperide)**  
-1mg - 2mg once daily. Max 8mg daily
  - **Glynase® (Glyburide)**  
-Conventional tablets: initially 2.5-5mg daily. Max 20mg daily  
-Micronized tablets: initially 1.5-3mg daily. Max 12mg daily
  - **Glucotrol® (Glipizide)**  
-Immediate release: initially 2.5-5mg daily. Max 15mg daily  
-Extended release: initially 5mg daily. Max 20mg daily
- Dose adjusted based on blood sugar patterns, A1c levels and avoidance of hypoglycemia.

Lexicomp Online®, Pediatric & Neonatal Lexi-Drugs®, Hudson, Ohio: Lexi-Comp, Inc: February 5, 2017

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### Patient Instructions

- Administer once daily with breakfast or 1<sup>st</sup> meal of the day
  - Don't skip meals – sulfonylureas work to ↑ insulin production throughout the day, so ↑ risk of hypoglycemia if meal skipped
- SIDE EFFECTS:**
- Hypoglycemia most common
  - GI upset
  - Skin reactions (including Stevens-Johnson Syndrome)
  - ↑ sun sensitivity

Lexicomp Online®, Pediatric & Neonatal Lexi-Drugs®, Hudson, Ohio: Lexi-Comp, Inc: February 5, 2017

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### CONTRAINDICATIONS

- Hypersensitivity to sulfonylureas or any component of the formulation
- History of allergic reaction to sulfonamide derivatives
- Pediatric safety/efficacy not established
- Pregnancy Category C
- **Breastfeeding:** depends on the specific drug. Some are excreted in breastmilk with subsequent risk for hypoglycemia

Lexicomp Online®, Pediatric & Neonatal Lexi-Drugs®, Hudson, Ohio: Lexi-Comp, Inc: February 5, 2017

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### Drug Interactions

Beta Blockers

- May ↑ hypoglycemic effect
- Cardio selective beta blockers (ex: Atenolol) may be safer
- All beta blockers seem to mask tachycardia as a symptom of hypoglycemia

Somatropin

- May diminish hypoglycemic effect of anti-diabetic agents

Ranitidine

- May ↑ serum concentration of sulfonylureas
- Monitor therapy for potential ↑ in hypoglycemia effects

Lexicomp Online®, Pediatric & Neonatal Lexi-Drugs™, Hudson, Ohio: Lexi-Comp, Inc: February 5, 2017

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## TAKE AWAYS:

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Source: DIABETease

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## CHARACTERISTICS OF MODY

**Dominant pattern of inheritance**  
-hx of diabetes in one or two consecutive generations

**Usual onset in childhood, adolescence, or young adulthood**  
-typically before age 25

**Risk of micro and macrovascular complications differ based on MODY type**

**Treatment differs based on MODY type**

Naylor R, Phillipson LH. (2011). Who should have genetic testing for maturity onset diabetes of the young? *Clinical Endocrinology*, 75(4), 422-426.

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## INDEX OF SUSPICION



**NEW OR PREVIOUSLY DIAGNOSED INDIVIDUAL WITH ATYPICAL FEATURES:**

- Absence of pancreatic auto-antibodies
- Evidence of endogenous insulin production beyond typical honeymoon
- T2 diagnosis in young individual not significantly overweight or without signs of insulin resistance
- Diabetes in 2 or more consecutive generations

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## 3 MOST COMMON MODY TYPES

- Hepatocyte Nuclear Factor 1 Alpha (HNF1A/MODY 3) : 50-60%
- Glucokinase (GCK/MODY 2) : 15-30%
- Hepatocyte Nuclear Factor 4 Alpha (HNF4A/MODY 1) : <30%

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## Case Study # 1 (cont'd)

### OUTCOME:

- Approximately 2 months out from diagnosis, we saw Brian back in clinic for follow up. HNF1A/MODY 3 mutation discussed.
- A1c was 6.5% on no treatment.
- Glimepiride 1mg daily was started. A1c remained 6.1-6.3% for the next year.
- Discussed importance of monitoring blood sugars and for signs of hypoglycemia. Plan to adjust dosage based on BG trends, A1c and hypoglycemia patterns.
- Discussed risk of micro/macrovascular complications similar to T1 DM.
- Remaining sibling screened (twin of sister with same mutation) – normal A1c, negative for HNF1A mutation.

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## Case Study #2:

"Tiffany" is a 14 year old Caucasian female with no significant past medical history. She presented to her PCP with a 3-4 month history of abdominal pain, dyspepsia and dysphagia. Weight 66.9 kg (86%ile), Ht. 166.1 cm (71.8%ile), BMI 24.25kg/m<sup>2</sup>.

She was referred to Gastroenterology where she additionally complained of polydipsia and polyphagia. Baseline labs revealed elevated fasting blood sugar (221mg/dl) and glucosuria on urinalysis, but no ketones.

### EMERGENCY ROOM EVALUATION:

	Result	Reference Range
pH, venous	7.35	7.31-7.41
PCO2, venous	51	42-55MMHG
PO2, venous	49	30-50MMHG
Glucose	247	65-95 MG/DL
HCO3	27	22-29 mmol/L

### BASELINE NEW ONSET LABS:

	Result	Reference Range
Hgb A1c	7.5%	3.0-5.5%
Insulin	2.09	2.0-19.6 IU/mL
GAD 65	0.00	<=0.02 nmol/L
IA-2 Ab	0.00	<=0.02 nmol/L
Insulin Ab	0.00	<=0.02 nmol/L
ZNT8 Ab	<15	<15 U/mL
C-Peptide	3.02	0.0-3.85 ng/mL

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## Case Study #2 (cont'd)

### FAMILY HISTORY:

- No family history of DM on maternal side
- Father: Non-obese and reports "borderline" high blood sugars on past several screenings
- Paternal GF: Non-obese, diagnosed with DM at age 18. Originally treated with oral anti-diabetic agents. Later switched to insulin therapy.
- Paternal GF's sister and brother both non-obese and with history of DM. Unclear historical information on diabetes type and treatment.

### INITIAL TREATMENT:

\*Initially started on traditional basal/bolus regimen. Lower blood sugars necessitated repeated decreases in insulin dosage.  
 \*6 weeks post diagnosis in clinic: A1c 6.5% (down from 7.5% at diagnosis) on 0.2u/kg/d of insulin.

### CLINICAL IMPRESSION:

- DM of unclear etiology
  - Type 1 DM with negative autoimmune markers in honeymoon?
  - MODY?

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## Case Study #2 (cont'd)

### **MODY Testing results:**

- Heterozygous in the HNF4A gene for a sequence variant designated c.733C>T in exon 7. Predicted to result in amino acid substitution p.Arg 245 Cys.
- Based on this information – it is classified as a variant of unknown clinical significance.

So – What now?

**Parent of origin testing**

**-Dad tested positive for the same mutation**

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## Case Study #2 (cont'd)

### **OUTCOME:**

- 4 months out from initial diagnosis, we finally had all of Tiffany's MODY testing results as well as parent of origin results.
- A1c was 5.9% on 0.2u/kg/d.
- Decided to trial her on a sulfonylurea:
  - Glimepiride 1mg daily**
  - Cut Lantus dose in half (already only 9% of body wt. in kg)
  - Counseled to monitor for ketones if ↑ blood sugars as well as for any hypoglycemia.
  - Within 2 months, Tiffany was off of all insulin and A1c was 5.5%.
  - She is now almost year out from initial diagnosis with an A1c of 5.4% on Glimepiride only regimen.
  - Genetic counseling was done and siblings are being tested.

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Questions??

Thank you for your attention!

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## References:

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