



Evaluation and Treatment of Prediabetes in Youth

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The increased prevalence of pediatric obesity has led to an increased incidence and prevalence of type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM), as well as the intermediate condition of prediabetes, in youth. Given that the definitions for these conditions were established based on adult data, pediatric providers are struggling with the definition and significance of prediabetes in children.

Although this report addresses prediabetes as a precursor to T2DM in the child and adolescent with overweight/obese child, type 1 diabetes remains the most common cause of diabetes during childhood, and should be kept under consideration by the clinician regardless of the child's body mass index (BMI). This is particularly true in youth less than 10 years of age and/or who are prepubertal.

The American Diabetes Association (ADA) defines diabetes as (1) a fasting (no caloric intake for at least 8 hours) glucose of >125 mg/dL, or (2) a 2-hour glucose on an oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT) of ≥ 200 mg/dL (in the absence of unequivocal hyperglycemia, the ADA recommends that the result should be confirmed with repeat testing), or (3) a random glucose of ≥ 200 mg/dL with the classic diabetes symptoms, or (4) a hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) of $\geq 6.5\%$ by a National Glycohemoglobin Standardization Program-certified device, standardized to the Diabetes Control and Complications Trial assay (in the absence of unequivocal hyperglycemia, the ADA recommends that the result should be confirmed with repeat testing).¹

Impaired fasting glucose (fasting glucose of 100-125 mg/dL) and impaired glucose tolerance (IGT) (2-hour glucose of 140-199 mg/dL on an OGTT) are associated with increased risk of developing diabetes.¹ Individuals with impaired fasting glucose, IGT, or both are included under the broad definition of prediabetes. With the updated diagnostic HbA1c criteria for diabetes in 2010, also came an HbA1c range associated with increased risk for diabetes: 5.7%-6.4%.¹ The ADA

states that the term "prediabetes" may be applied to this group and that those with HbA1c in the 6.0%-6.4% group are at particularly high risk for developing diabetes. In each of these conditions in adults (impaired fasting glucose, IGT, or elevated HbA1c in the prediabetes range), there is a continuum of risk that is curvilinear, with the diabetes risk increasing disproportionately to the HbA1c or absolute glucose value.¹

Impaired fasting glucose and IGT are considered risk factors for both the development of diabetes and for cardiovascular disease (CVD). After adjustment for traditional CVD risk factors, a longitudinal, population-based study by Barrett et al showed that adults with IGT and impaired fasting glucose had a 50%-60% greater 5-year mortality risk than those with normal glucose tolerance.² In that study, 65% of CVD deaths occurred in those with known diabetes, newly diagnosed diabetes, impaired fasting glucose, or IGT at baseline. Up to 22.6% of adults with overweight have been shown to have prediabetes and approximately 5%-10% of adults with prediabetes will progress to diabetes within a year.³⁻⁵

Among US adolescents in the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey cohort, 13.1% had impaired fasting glucose and 3.4% had IGT, with an overall prediabetes prevalence (not including HbA1c in this definition) of 16.1%. The prevalence of prediabetes was approximately 30% among adolescents with obesity, with 22.7% having impaired fasting glucose and 9.5% having IGT.⁶ The prevalence of prediabetes in adolescents has been increasing, with 1.8% having impaired fasting glucose in 1988-1994, 7.0% in 1999-2000, and 23% in 2007-2008.⁷ A school-based study screening eighth-grade minority children with multiple risk factors for diabetes found that 43% met the criteria for prediabetes using impaired fasting glucose and IGT definitions.⁸ However, youth have unique circumstances affecting the likelihood of progression of prediabetes to T2DM. Youth have differences in the degree of obesity, dietary choices, physical activity patterns, and other behaviors when compared with adults. In addition, elevations in hormones necessary to achieve final growth and physical development, particularly growth hormone and insulin-like growth factor-1, contribute strongly to the normal physiologic decrease in insulin sensitivity that occurs during puberty.⁹⁻¹¹ In youth with multiple risk factors for the development of T2DM, dysglycemia can be

ADA	American Diabetes Association
AUC	Area under the curve
BMI	Body mass index
CVD	Cardiovascular disease
FPG	Fasting plasma glucose
HbA1c	Hemoglobin A1c
HOMA-IR	Homeostatic Model Assessment of Insulin Resistance-calculated measure of insulin resistance
IGT	Impaired glucose tolerance
OGTT	Oral glucose tolerance test
RISE	Restoring Insulin Secretion
T2DM	Type 2 diabetes mellitus

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associated with the pubertal decrease in insulin sensitivity. As growth hormone/insulin-like growth factor-1 levels decrease toward the end of puberty, insulin sensitivity improves.¹¹ Thus, there is a high rate of spontaneous remission of prediabetes in youth with obesity when puberty ends. In a study of 547 youth age 14.5 ± 2.2 years (70% Hispanic), with baseline HbA1c in the prediabetes and T2DM range, 420 youth had a follow-up HbA1c available at a median of 12-22 months. Of those with follow-up HbA1c available, only 33% of those with baseline HbA1c of $\geq 6.5\%$, 8% of those with a baseline HbA1c of 6.0-6.4% and 4% of those with baseline HbA1c values of 5.7%-5.9%, had a follow-up HbA1c of $\geq 6.5\%$. There was a linear relationship overall in the cohort between worsening BMI and progression to T2DM. Thus, the risk for progression of HbA1c from the prediabetes to diabetes category was not equal amongst all youth with baseline HbA1c in the prediabetes range.¹² In another study of 79 white youth with obesity 13.1 ± 2.1 years old with IGT, after 1 year only 32% still had IGT; 66% converted to normal glucose tolerance, 1 child had impaired fasting glucose, and 1 child developed T2DM.¹³

Although there is no direct evidence that early diagnosis of prediabetes improves the long-term outcome of diabetes in children and adolescents, there is indirect evidence that identifying prediabetes in youth may be valuable. Studies in adults indicate that lifestyle modification can prevent or delay the onset of T2DM.¹⁴ Thus, targeted screening of adolescents with risk factors for diabetes is currently recommended. However, one must exercise caution in extrapolating from adult data, because the phenotype of T2DM differs in youth from that of adults.¹⁵

Screening

The Pediatric Endocrine Society with the Endocrine Society and European Society of Endocrinology, and the ADA endorse screening for prediabetes/T2DM in high-risk youth.^{1,16,17} High risk is defined as (1) age ≥ 10 years or pubertal (if this occurs before age 10 years), and meeting the following weight criteria: BMI ≥ 85 th percentile for age and sex on the standard Centers for Disease Control and Prevention growth charts, weight for height >85 th percentile, or weight $>120\%$ of ideal (50th percentile) for height, and (2) the presence of at least 2 of the following risk factors: family history of T2DM in a first- or second-degree relative; minority race/ethnicity (Native American, black, Hispanic, Asian American, Pacific Islander); conditions or signs associated with insulin resistance (acanthosis nigricans, polycystic ovary syndrome, hypertension, dyslipidemia, small for gestational age); and maternal diabetes or gestational diabetes during the child's gestation.¹⁷ In the ADA consensus statement published in 2000, it was recommended that screening be repeated every 2 years and clinical judgment should be used to test for prediabetes/T2DM in patients who do not fulfill these criteria. Appropriate screening tests for prediabe-

tes/T2DM can include HbA1c, fasting plasma glucose (FPG), and/or OGTT.

There is considerable debate surrounding what constitutes the optimal approach to screening for prediabetes in youth.¹⁸⁻²⁰ The 2 most convenient tests, HbA1c and FPG, measure different aspects of overall glycemic control with poor correlation between HbA1c in the prediabetes range (5.7%-6.4%) and impaired fasting glucose (100-125 mg/dL).²¹ Epidemiologic studies in adults indicate that HbA1c and plasma glucose concentrations (FPG or 2-hour OGTT) identify overlapping but different groups of individuals.²² Moreover, FPG alone is a poor predictor of defects in glucose tolerance in youth, because many obese youth with IGT on OGTT have a FPG of <100 mg/dL.²³ Thus, FPG alone may miss a significant proportion (approximately 70%) of youth with IGT detected by OGTT.²⁴

An international expert committee has recommended using HbA1c for screening and diagnosis of prediabetes.²⁵ These guidelines classify asymptomatic individuals as having diabetes if they have an HbA1c of $\geq 6.5\%$ on 2 separate occasions and as having prediabetes if they have an HbA1c of 6.0%-6.4%.²⁵ The ADA has endorsed classifying individuals with an HbA1c of 5.7%-6.4% as having prediabetes to include a broader range of at-risk individuals, so that interventions could be implemented earlier in the pathogenesis of diabetes.²⁶ However, lowering the threshold brings with it the inclusion of more individuals who are unlikely to develop diabetes. Using HbA1c as a screening and diagnostic test has the benefits of being available as a point-of-care test that does not require fasting, can be done from a single finger stick, and is a less expensive and a much shorter procedure than a 2-hour OGTT. However, it is important to note that the usefulness of HbA1c is affected by pathologic conditions affecting red blood cell turnover. For example, sickle cell anemia decreases the lifespan of the red blood cell and can cause a lower HbA1c despite hyperglycemia.²⁷ In addition, although HbA1c assays have been standardized, clinically significant intermethod variability still exists, such that diabetes classification between HbA1c methods remains poor (1 study of 2 methods for HbA1c found a concordance of diabetes classification of only 37%).²⁸ Also, studies validating the use of HbA1c to detect risk for complications related to prediabetes/T2DM have solely been performed in adults, and may not be directly translatable to youth.

The OGTT can diagnose IGT earlier in the course of progressive dysglycemia than the HbA1c.²⁰ Moreover, OGTT glycemic outcomes have also been associated with risk factors for the development of T2DM, CVD, and increased morbidity.²⁹⁻³² However, the OGTT also requires fasting, takes ≥ 2 hours, and has poor reproducibility among youth with prediabetes, even under controlled research settings.²⁴ Moreover, a high percentage of children with prediabetes diagnosed by OGTT revert to normal glucose tolerance over 1-5 years' time, despite no intervention or weight loss. These limitations call into question the usefulness of this test for youth in clinical settings.^{13,33}

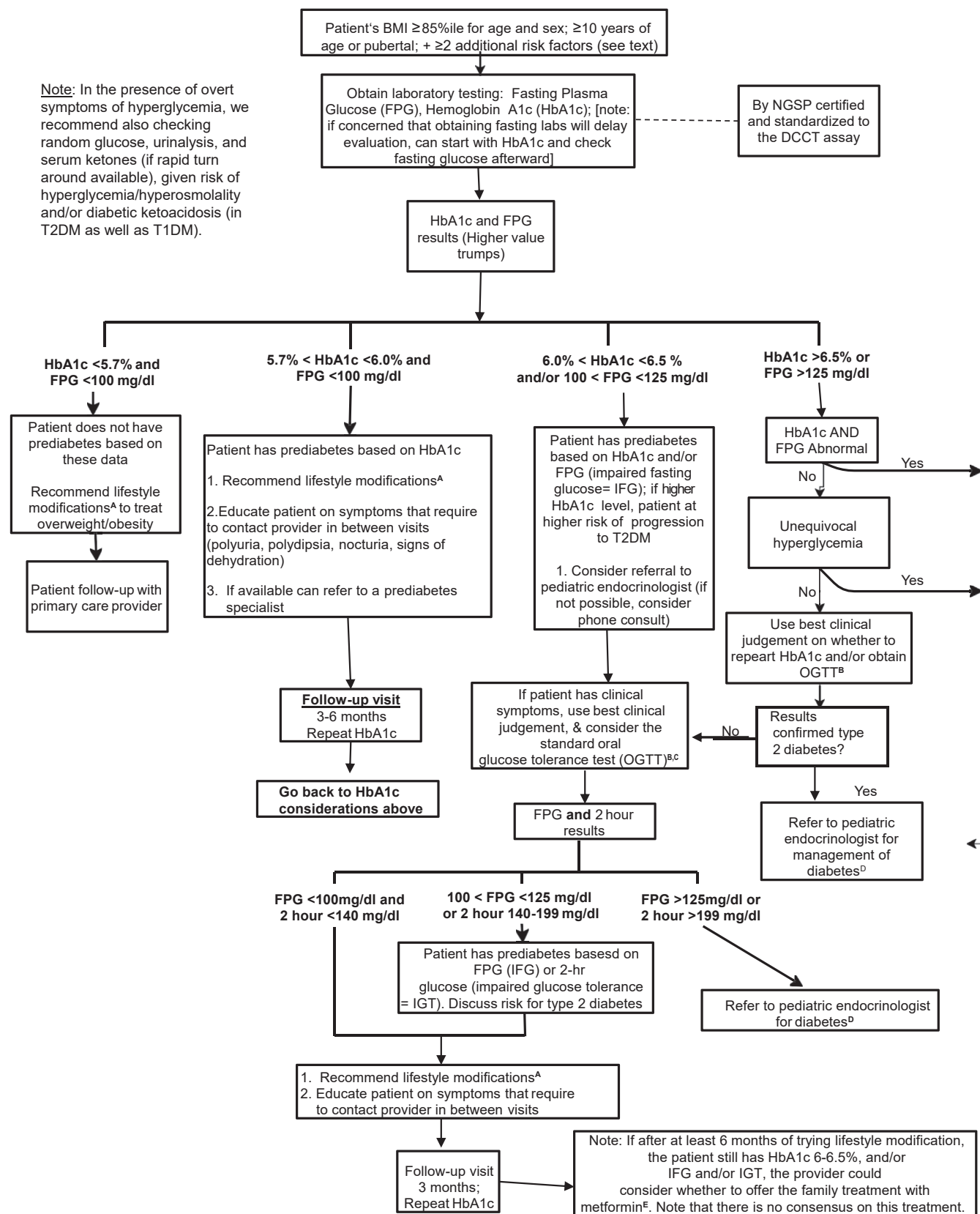


Figure. Possible management algorithm. The superscript references in the algorithm refer to the information on the next page. *ALT*, alanine aminotransferase; *AST*, aspartate aminotransferase; *CBC*, complete blood count; *DCCT*, Diabetes Control and Complications Trial; *LFT*, liver function tests; *NGSP*, National Glycohemoglobin Standardization Program; *PG*, plasma glucose; *WHO*, World Health Organization. (Continues)

A Lifestyle Modification Recommendations:

1. Meet with a pediatric nutritionist for assessment and recommendations
2. At least 60 minutes of moderate-vigorous physical activity every day (can work up to this gradually if deconditioned)
3. ≤ 2 hours screen time per day (includes tv, video games, computer use not related to school, tablets, texting, etc.)
4. Get enough sleep to promote optimal health. The AAP recommends children 6 to 12 years of age sleep 9 to 12 hours per 24 hours, and teenagers 13 to 18 years of age sleep 8 to 10 hours per 24 hours

Diet Recommendation:

Eliminate sugar-sweetened beverages
 At least 5 servings of fruits and vegetables per day
 Portion sizes (palm for meat, fist for everything else)

Set short-term goals and track progress

B Oral Glucose Tolerance Test

- Use 1.75 g/kg dextrose, 75 g max
- Done with 8-12 hours fasting
- Done before 10 am
- Blood draws to occur at t=0 & t=120 mins

C In situations in which an OGTT is not feasible, pediatric provider can consider having family/patient check fasting and 2 hour post-prandial blood sugars by home glucometer, with instructions to call provider if blood sugars are falling within the diabetes range. Provider can then refer to pediatric endocrinology.

D Criteria for the diagnosis of diabetes

- FPG ≥ 126 mg/dL (7.0 mmol/L). Fasting is defined as no caloric intake for at least 8h [§]
OR
- 2-h PG ≥ 200 mg/dL (11.1 mmol/L) during an OGTT. The test should be performed as described by the WHO, using a glucose load containing the equivalent of 75 g anhydrous glucose dissolved in water[§]
OR
- A1C $\geq 6.5\%$ (48 mmol/mol). The test should be performed in a laboratory using a method that is a method that is NGSP certified and standardized to the DCCT assay.[§]
OR
- In a patient with classic symptoms of hyperglycemia or hyperglycemia crisis, a random glucose ≥ 200 mg/dL (11.1 mmol/L)

[§]In the absence of unequivocal hyperglycemia, results should be confirmed by repeat testing.

E Metformin Dosing

- Gradually increase dose by 500 mg increments per week until patient achieves highest dose tolerated or 1000 mg po BID with food
- LFT's and CBC, ALT, AST, Creatinine Q6 mos
- Stop metformin if patient has macrocytic anemia and/or AST/ALT > 2.5 x upper limit of normal. In the case of elevated liver enzymes, if stopping metformin is likely to result in suboptimal control, consider consultation with a pediatric gastrointestinal/liver specialist.

Figure. Continued.

Table. Prediabetes trials in adults and youth

Studies	Design	Participants	Intervention(s)	Follow-up	Primary Outcome(s)	Conclusions
Adults						
US Diabetes Prevention Program Trial ¹⁴	RCT	3234 adults BMI ≥25 kg/m ² FPG 95-125 mg/dL IGT	Placebo Intensive lifestyle modification Lifestyle recommendations + metformin	2.8 y (mean)	Incidence of diabetes was 11.0 cases (placebo), 7.8 cases (metformin), 4.8 cases (lifestyle) per 100 person y Lifestyle reduced incidence by 58%, metformin by 31%	Intensive lifestyle modification or treatment with metformin is associated with decreased rates of progression to diabetes.
Finnish Diabetes prevention Study ³⁸	RCT	522 adults BMI ≥25 kg/m ² IGT	Control Intensive lifestyle modification	3.2 y (mean)	Incidence of diabetes was 23% (control) and 11% (intervention)	Intensive lifestyle modification is associated with decreased rates of progression to diabetes.
Da Qing IGT and Diabetes Study ³⁹	RCT	577 adults IGT	Control Diet Exercise Diet + exercise	6 y (end point)	Incidence of diabetes was 68% (control), 44% (diet), 41% (exercise), 46% (diet + exercise) Diet reduced incidence by 31%, exercise by 46%, diet + exercise by 42%	Diet and/or exercise is associated with decreased rates of progression to diabetes.
Indian Diabetes Prevention Programme ⁴⁰	RCT	531 adults IGT	Control Lifestyle modification Metformin Lifestyle + metformin	2.5 y (mean)	Incidence of diabetes was 55% (control), 39% (lifestyle), 41% (metformin), 40% (lifestyle + metformin) To prevent one case of diabetes in 3 y period, 6.4 persons need the lifestyle-intervention, and 6.9 need metformin	Intensive lifestyle modification or treatment with metformin is associated with decreased rates of progression to diabetes. No benefit to combination therapy was seen.
Swedish Obese Subjects (SOS) ⁴¹	Bariatric surgery/matched controls	1658 postsurgery, 1771 controls	Bariatric surgery (nonstandardized) Usual care	10 y (median)	Incidence of diabetes was 2.8 cases (control) and 0.68 cases (surgery) per 100 person y	Bariatric surgery was more efficient than usual care for preventing progression to diabetes.
Troglitazone in Prevention of Diabetes (TRIPOD) ⁴²	RCT	266 adult Hispanic women Previous GDM	Placebo + lifestyle recommendations Troglitazone (insulin sensitizer) + lifestyle recommendations	2.5 y (mean)	Incidence of diabetes was 12% (control) and 5.4% (troglitazone)	Troglitazone decreased progression to diabetes in Hispanic women with previous GDM.
Diabetes Reduction Assessment with ramipril and rosiglitazone Medication (DREAM) ⁴³	RCT	5269 adults IGT or impaired fasting glucose or both	Placebo + lifestyle recommendations Rosiglitazone (insulin sensitizer) + lifestyle recommendations	3.0 y (median)	Incidence of diabetes or death was 26% (placebo) and 12% (rosiglitazone)	Rosiglitazone decreased progression to diabetes.
XENical in the prevention of diabetes in obese subjects (XENDOS) ⁴⁴	RCT	3305 adults BMI ≥30 kg/m ² NGT or IGT	Placebo + lifestyle recommendations Orlistat + lifestyle recommendations	4.0 y (end point)	Incidence of diabetes 9% (placebo) and 6% (orlistat) Orlistat reduced incidence by 37%	Orlistat plus lifestyle changes decreased progression to diabetes.
Outcome Reduction with an Initial Glargine Intervention (ORIGIN) ⁴⁵	RCT	12 537 adults CVD risk factors IGT or T2D	Placebo or n-3 fatty acids + lifestyle recommendations Insulin glargine + lifestyle recommendation	6.2 y (median)	Primary outcomes measures after treatment discontinued for 3 mo In those with IGT, incidence of diabetes 30% (glargine) and 35% (placebo) (OR, 0.80; 95% CI, 0.64-1.00)	Insulin glargine decreased progression to diabetes, but was also associated with hypoglycemia and weight gain.

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Table. Continued

Studies	Design	Participants	Intervention(s)	Follow-up	Primary Outcome(s)	Conclusions
Study TO Prevent Noninsulin-dependent diabetes mellitus (STOP-NIDDM) ⁴⁷	RCT	1368 adults BMI 25-40 kg/m ² Impaired fasting glucose IGT	Placebo + lifestyle recommendations Acarbose + lifestyle recommendations	3.3 y (mean)	Incidence of diabetes 42% (placebo) and 32% (acarbose)	Acarbose decreased progression to diabetes.
Nepi ANtidiabetes StudY (NANSY) ⁵⁰	RCT	274 adults impaired fasting glucose	Placebo + lifestyle recommendations Glimepiride (insulin secretagogue) + lifestyle recommendations	3.7 y	Incidence of diabetes 40% (placebo) and 30% (glimepiride); not statistically different	Glimepiride was not associated with decreased progression to diabetes.
Prevention of Diabetes by Tolbutamide and Diet Regulation ⁵¹	RCT	267 adult men IGT	Diet + tolbutamide (insulin secretagogue) Placebo + tolbutamide Diet No treatment	10 y (end point)	Incidence of diabetes 29% (no treatment), 13% (diet), 0% (diet + tolbutamide)	Treatment with diet + tolbutamide might be associated with decreased progression to diabetes.
Nateglinide and Valsartan in Impaired Glucose Tolerance Outcomes Research (NAVIGATOR) ⁵²	RCT	9306 adults IGT CVD or CVD risk factors	2 × 2 factorial design Placebo + either valsartan (angiotensin receptor blocker) or placebo and lifestyle modification Nateglinide (insulin secretagogue) + either valsartan or placebo and lifestyle modification	5 y (median)	Incidence of diabetes 34% (placebo), 36% (nateglinide)	Nateglinide was not associated with decreased progression to diabetes.
Youth						
Researching Effective Strategies to Improve Insulin Sensitivity in Children and Teenagers (RESIST) ⁵³	RCT	111 youth aged 10-17 y BMI ≥85th percentile Prediabetes or clinical features of insulin resistance	Metformin Randomized to diet: (1) 55%-60% carb, 30% fat, 15% pro; (2) 40%-45% carb, 30% fat, 25%-30% pro 0 to 3 mo: intensive dietary intervention 4-6 mo: intensive exercise intervention plus dietary support	6 mo	Insulin:glucose ratio decreased in cohort BMI decreased in cohort No differences between diet groups	A structured program including both dietary and exercise support improves BMI in the short term. Assignment to moderate carbohydrate diet was not better than higher carbohydrate diet for markers of insulin sensitivity or BMI.
Metformin Therapy in Obese Adolescents with Polycystic Ovary Syndrome and IGT ⁵⁴	Open label	15 female youth (mean age 14 y) IGT PCOS	Metformin + lifestyle recommendations	3 mo	Improved glucose tolerance on OGTT Increased clamp-measured insulin sensitivity	Metformin improved insulin sensitivity and glucose tolerance in the short term in youth with PCOS.
Metformin in obese children and adolescents (MOCA) ⁵⁵	RCT	151 youth 8-18 y BMI >98th percentile IGT or predesignated OGTT insulin levels	Placebo + lifestyle recommendations Metformin + lifestyle recommendations	6 mo	Metformin reduced BMI-SD score compared with placebo (mean difference, -0.1 SD; 95% CI, -0.18 to -0.02; P = .02).	Metformin moderately improved BMI-SD score in the short term.
Metformin in pediatric patients with impaired glucose tolerance ⁵⁶	RCT	52 insured youth 4-17 y IGT	Placebo + weight maintenance diet Metformin + weight maintenance diet	3 mo	Percentage weight loss greater in the metformin group (-5.86% vs 2.75%), decrease in HOMA-IR, and HbA1c	Metformin moderately improved percent weight loss in the short term.
Rosiglitazone in obese adolescents with IGT ⁵⁷	RCT	21 youth 13-18 y IGT or impaired fasting glucose and IGT	Placebo + lifestyle recommendations Rosiglitazone + lifestyle recommendations	4 mo	Rosiglitazone improved clamp-measured insulin sensitivity and was associated with 58% conversion to NGT; placebo was associated with 44% conversion to NGT	Rosiglitazone improved insulin sensitivity and glucose tolerance. However, rosiglitazone is no longer used in youth owing to safety concerns in adults.

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Table. Continued

Studies	Design	Participants	Intervention(s)	Follow-up	Primary Outcome(s)	Conclusions
Safety and efficacy of orlistat in adolescents ⁵⁸	Open label	20 youth 12-17 y BMI >95th percentile ≥1 obesity-related condition	Dietary instructions on 500 kcal-deficit/d and ≤30% calories from fat Orlistat TID + multivitamin supplement	6 mo	BMI, cholesterol, fasting insulin, and glucose were lower after treatment; intravenous glucose tolerance test-measured insulin sensitivity improved White youth had greater benefits than African American youth	The true benefit of adding orlistat to dietary instruction cannot be concluded, but white youth seem to benefit more than African American youth.
Restoring Insulin Secretion (RISE) Pediatric Medication Study ⁶⁰	Comparative effectiveness RCT	91 youth 10-19 y Tanner stage ≥2 BMI ≥85th percentile but ≤50 kg/m ² IGT or T2D diagnosed within 6 mo FPG ≥90 mg/dL Negative IA-2 and GAD autoantibodies	Insulin glargine alone for 3 mo, titrated to fasting blood glucose of 80-90 mg/dL followed by metformin alone for 9 mo Metformin alone for 12 mo	21 mo	FPG and 2-h OGTT glucose stable while on therapy Medication withdrawal associated with increase in BMI, HbA1c and OGTT glucose measures Progression beta-cell dysfunction in both groups No differences between groups	Early treatment with insulin glargine followed by metformin or metformin alone did not stop the progressive beta-cell dysfunction in youth with IGT or recently diagnosed T2DM.

GDM, gestational diabetes mellitus; NGT, normal glucose tolerance; PCOS, polycystic ovary syndrome; RCT, randomized controlled trial; T2D, type 2 diabetes; 2hrPG, OGTT 2 hour plasma glucose; Impaired fasting glucose defined by a FPG of 110-125 mg/dL. IGT is defined by a 2 hour plasma glucose 140-199 mg/dL.

As in adults, studies in youth indicate poor agreement between HbA1c, FPG, and OGTT in diagnosing prediabetes.^{20,34} One study found that 47% of youth with HbA1c in the prediabetes range (5.7%-6.4%) had OGTT results consistent with prediabetes; and 27% of youth with normal HbA1c levels had OGTT results consistent with prediabetes. Moreover, a large study of youth with overweight and obesity (n = 4848) showed only weak correlations between HbA1c and FPG (r = 0.18) and HbA1c and 2-hour OGTT glucose (r = 0.17).³⁵ It is clear that these measures—FPG, OGTT, and HbA1c—reflect distinct aspects of carbohydrate metabolism and resulting glycemia, and that these are associated with the discrepancies with the other 2 measures. Moreover, in some youth, the 75 g of dextrose present in an OGTT is less than the glycemic load they typically consume in one sitting. Therefore, an adolescent could have normal glucose tolerance measured by OGTT, but have higher glucose consumption in their home diet, and this condition may be reflected in the HbA1c. When continuous glucose monitoring is used, HbA1c reflects average glucose and glucose area under the curve (AUC), whereas 2-hour glucose on OGTT reflects the peak glucose and percent time >140 and >200 mg/dL.³⁶ Thus, one test may not be more “correct,” but may instead provide different information. It has been suggested that HbA1c is not sufficiently sensitive or specific enough to make the diagnosis of prediabetes alone, but should be used in combination with OGTT.³⁷ However, it is not clear what the gold standard for prediabetes and diabetes diagnosis should be in youth. Thus, expert opinion and screening practice varies. Given the lack of consensus on an optimal screening test for prediabetes and T2DM in youth, the historical practice of using OGTT, and the effect of high red blood cell turnover on HbA1c levels in hemolytic anemias, one could consider screening those who have unique risk factors with both HbA1c and OGTT.

Recommendations for Prediabetes/Diabetes Screening

After preliminary obesity screening with HbA1c and/or FPG, who should be screened further and how? In our opinion, the OGTT may be beneficial in assessing high-risk patients who meet the following criteria: (1) HbA1c ≥6.0% or (2) FPG glucose ≥100 mg/dL on >2 occasions, or (3) significant symptoms of polyuria, polydipsia, and/or nocturia/enuresis (particularly new-onset or worsening). However, repeating the HbA1c over time may also be sufficient. The Figure shows a possible management algorithm.

Consider referral of a youth with prediabetes (if diagnosed by HbA1c, particularly if HbA1c 6.0%-6.4%) to a pediatric provider specializing in the care of youth with prediabetes. In cases in which a referral is not available, consider telephone consultation with a pediatric endocrinologist and/or use best clinical judgement. There is no definitive consensus on how often the OGTT and/or HbA1c should be performed in youth with prediabetes. Testing may be repeated in 3-6 months or sooner if one suspects progression of

dysglycemia for the following concerns: continued increase in BMI, patient continues to meet the prediabetes criteria as described, increase in HbA1c and/or FPG (but values remain below the diagnostic criteria for diabetes), patient has worsening or new symptoms of diabetes (as described).

Treatment

A summary of clinical trials investigating treatment of prediabetes in adults and youth is included in the [Table](#).

Studies in Adults

Multiple studies in adults suggest that the progression of prediabetes to T2DM can be prevented. The Finnish Diabetes Prevention Study of adults with IGT found that progression to T2DM in the lifestyle group was less than one-half of that in controls, and was related to the degree of lifestyle changes made and maintained ≥ 4 years after the intervention.³⁸ The Diabetes Prevention Program of US adults with prediabetes found a 58% reduction in progression to T2DM with lifestyle vs 31% with metformin, although the 10-year follow-up indicated continued progression of the disease and need for continued follow-up.¹⁴ In Chinese adults with IGT, the Da Qing Study found that progression to diabetes was decreased 31% by diet, 46% by exercise, and 42% by combined diet and exercise over 6 years of follow-up.³⁹ Furthermore, the Indian Diabetes Prevention Programme in Asian Indians found a relative risk reduction of progression to diabetes of 28.5% with lifestyle, 26.4% with metformin, and 28.2% with lifestyle combined with metformin.⁴⁰

In the Swedish Obesity Surgery study, at ≤ 15 years after gastric bypass surgery, a protective effect on progression to diabetes persisted.⁴¹ Troglitazone improved insulin sensitivity but not glucose tolerance in Latino women with IGT and previous GDM in the Troglitazone in Prevention of Diabetes study. However, in the longer term, troglitazone delayed or prevented T2DM and preserved pancreatic β -cell function.⁴² In addition, the Diabetes REduction Assessment with ramipril and rosiglitazone Medication trial found that rosiglitazone significantly decreased incident T2DM and reversed prediabetes in adults with impaired fasting glucose or IGT or both.⁴³ The XENical in the prevention of Diabetes in Obese Subjects study found a 37.3% risk reduction with orlistat, driven by changes in the 21% of participants with initial IGT, despite similar weight loss in both groups.⁴⁴ Finally, the Outcome Reduction with Initial Glargine INtervention found that insulin glargine titrated to keep the HbA1c at $< 6.5\%$ decreased progression to diabetes, with persistent short-term benefits after withdrawal of therapy.⁴⁵ Therefore, in adults, there is at least short-term evidence that weight loss, exercise, gastric bypass, metformin, thiazolidinediones, orlistat, and intensive glycemic control may all decrease progression from prediabetes to T2DM.

In contrast, the Acarbose for Prevention of T2DM trial found acarbose to be as effective as metformin in preventing T2DM, but its gastrointestinal side effects were problematic,⁴⁶ and acarbose failed to prevent worsening of fasting

glucose in early T2DM in the Early Diabetes Intervention Program.⁴⁷ Sulfonylureas initially increase insulin secretion, but may accelerate secondary β -cell failure,^{48,49} and had mixed effects in two T2DM prevention trials.^{50,51} Similarly, nateglinide failed to prevent progression to diabetes in the Nateglinide and Valsartan in Impaired Glucose Tolerance Outcomes Research study.⁵² Thus, acarbose, sulfonylureas, and meglitinides appear less promising for T2DM prevention in adults.

Studies in Youth

Owing to unique features of T2DM in youth, pediatric data are critical. The Researching Effective Strategies to Improve Insulin Sensitivity in Children and Teenagers study included 111 overweight/obese 10- to 17-year-olds with prediabetes and/or clinical features of insulin resistance, who received metformin and either a high carbohydrate or moderate carbohydrate/increased protein diet for 6 months, plus an exercise intervention from months 4 to 6.⁵³ The insulin sensitivity index increased at 3 months and the insulin to glucose ratio and BMI decreased at 6 months, but there were no significant differences between the diet groups.⁵³ Fifteen adolescents with polycystic ovary syndrome and IGT receiving 3 months of metformin had improvement in IGT, clamp-derived insulin sensitivity, and androgen concentrations.⁵⁴ In the Metformin in Obese Children and Adolescents placebo-controlled trial of 151 obese 8- to 18-year-olds with hyperinsulinemia and/or impaired fasting glucose or IGT, 6 months of metformin was associated with a significant decrease in BMI-SD score at 6 months, and within the metformin group, there were reductions in fasting glucose, alanine aminotransferase, and adiponectin:leptin ratio.⁵⁵ In a placebo-controlled study in fifty-two 4- to 17-year-old Mexican children with IGT, 12 weeks of metformin induced a greater improvement in weight, resistin, Homeostatic Model Assessment of Insulin Resistance-calculated measure of insulin resistance (HOMA-IR) and HbA1c than placebo.⁵⁶ Of note, 4 prepubertal and some normal weight youth were included, calling into question the IGT diagnosis.⁵⁶ In 21 adolescents with obesity with IGT, more youth in the rosiglitazone group reverted to NGT vs placebo (58% vs 44%), associated with an increase in hyperinsulinemic-euglycemic clamp-derived insulin sensitivity and β -cell function (doubling in the disposition index measured by OGTT).⁵⁷ Twenty adolescents with obesity-related comorbid conditions treated with 6 months of orlistat had improvement in BMI, total and LDL cholesterol, frequently sampled intravenous glucose tolerance test-derived insulin sensitivity and HOMA-IR, with a greater effect in white participants.⁵⁸ However, orlistat tolerability is often very poor owing to the high rate of flatulence and other gastrointestinal symptoms. Savoye et al⁵⁹ published the 6-month results of their Bright Bodies Healthy Lifestyle program, a randomized control trial of pubertal adolescents with "elevated" 2-hour blood glucose levels during an OGTT. Investigators found that intensive lifestyle intervention resulted in more favorable reductions in 2-hour glucose and improved insulin sensitivity, compared with controls. Thus,

in sum, the limited available data in youth show that while on treatment, metformin and rosiglitazone (not approved for use in children) improve insulin sensitivity and possibly β -cell function, and that orlistat improves insulin sensitivity, suggesting potential benefits of these drugs on preventing short-term progression from prediabetes to T2DM while on treatment. Furthermore, there is evidence that intensive lifestyle intervention also improved 2-hour postprandial glucose during an OGTT and insulin sensitivity. However, the majority of these treatment trials did not last >6 months, the durability of the intervention was not tested after stopping therapy, and the known poor reproducibility in OGTT data makes interpretation of the responses difficult.

The multicenter National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases-funded Restoring Insulin Secretion (RISE) study enrolled 91 youth and 355 adults with IGT or recently diagnosed T2DM.⁶⁰ The 91 youth were pubertal, overweight/obese 10- to 19-year-olds, with IGT (60%) or T2DM of <6 months duration (40%), and were randomized to either 3 months of insulin glargine (titrated to a target fasting glucose of 80-90 mg/dL, average dose 0.7 U/kg/day) followed by 9 months of 1000 mg twice daily of metformin daily or to 12 months of 1000 mg twice daily metformin alone. β -Cell function (insulin sensitivity paired with β -cell responses) was assessed by a hyperglycemic clamp at baseline, 12 months (on treatment), and 15 months (3 months off treatment), with OGTTs performed at these timepoints as well. No significant differences were observed between treatment groups at baseline, 12 months, or 15 months in β -cell function, BMI percentile, HbA1c, fasting glucose, or OGTT 2-hour glucose results. In both treatment groups, clamp-measured β -cell function was significantly lower at 12 and 15 months vs baseline. HbA1c improved only transiently at 6 months within both groups. BMI was higher in the glargine followed by metformin vs metformin alone group between 3 and 9 months. After medication withdrawal at 12 months, participants in both groups experienced progressive decline in β -cell function as FPG, 2-hour glucose, HbA1c, and BMI increased during a 9-month follow-up period off medications. Only 5% of participants discontinued the interventions, and both treatments were well-tolerated with good compliance. Therefore, the beneficial effects of metformin and glargine insulin on β -cell function seen in previous adult studies were not seen in youth, and neither metformin nor glargine had a durable impact after withdrawal of medication for prevention of diabetes progression in youth.

Potential explanations for the different effect of metformin and glargine in youth vs prior studies in adults can also be gleaned from the RISE study. When the 91 youth and 355 adults from RISE were compared at baseline, hyperglycemic clamp-derived insulin sensitivity was significantly (46%) lower in youth, youth had significantly greater hyperglycemic clamp-derived acute and steady-state C-peptide and insulin responses to glucose and arginine-stimulated C-peptide and insulin responses, and youth had significantly lower insulin clearance.⁶¹ After adjustment for insulin sensitivity,

all β -cell responses remained significantly greater in youth and insulin clearance was also reduced in youth. The same participants also underwent a 3-hour OGTT.⁶² Fasting, 2-hour glucose, and incremental glucose AUC were similar in both age-groups, but youth had an approximately 50% lower 1/fasting insulin, 75% higher incremental C-peptide AUC, and more than 2-fold higher insulinogenic index. Two-hour C-peptide and insulin concentrations, incremental C-peptide AUC, and incremental insulin AUC were all higher in youth. C-peptide and insulin responses remained significantly greater in youth after adjustment for insulin sensitivity. Thus, youth had increased insulin resistance and a greater hyperinsulinemic response to glucose compared with adults. Moreover, when comparing treatment responses, youth in the insulin followed by metformin arm gained weight, whereas adults lost weight once metformin was begun, and overall in youth, β -cell function deteriorated during treatment and after treatment withdrawal, whereas in adults, β -cell function improved or remained stable during treatment, but was not sustained after treatment withdrawal.⁶³ These age-related differences may contribute to declining β -cell function and/or impact responses to glucose-lowering interventions, arguing for future longitudinal studies to determine whether these features of youth contribute to a more rapid decline in β -cell function in youth with dysglycemia.

In summary, clinical trials investigating the treatment of prediabetes in youth to date are relatively small, compared with those in adults, and most have only short-term outcomes. Youth on active treatment with multidisciplinary intensive lifestyle modification, metformin or other insulin sensitizers, and weight loss medications not routinely used in pediatrics have modestly improved insulin sensitivity and derive potential weight loss or weight stabilizing benefits of these interventions in the short term. For patients with persistent HbA1c of 6.0%-6.4%, and/or impaired fasting glucose and/or IGT, providers often consider treatment with metformin, however, there is no consensus on this treatment (Figure). Based on the available trial results, the ADA panel of experts in 2007 recommended that only metformin be considered as drug therapy for adults with impaired fasting glucose/IGT.⁵ Metformin is also recommended as a choice of first-line treatment for youth and adults with polycystic ovary syndrome and with T2DM. In the Diabetes Prevention Program, the subsets of the study cohort that had substantially increased benefit from metformin were those adults <60 years of age and those with a BMI of ≥ 35 kg/m². Therefore, the ADA also recommended that metformin be limited to such adults. The ADA has not recommended the use of metformin in youth with prediabetes; moreover, owing to insufficient data and the recent data from the RISE study, they also do not support the use of insulin for prediabetes in youth. Studies have shown that metformin, calorie restriction, and exercise all activate the cellular energy sensor AMP-activated protein kinase, which improves glucose uptake and fatty acid oxidation in muscle, glucose uptake,

glycolysis and fatty acid oxidation in the heart, and is anorexigenic in the hypothalamus, resulting in decreased food intake. They also suppress hepatic fatty acid synthesis and gluconeogenesis, fatty acid synthesis and lipolysis in adipose tissue, and pancreatic insulin secretion. However, after 1 year, metformin diffuses across the blood–brain barrier, and stimulates orexigenic receptors in the hypothalamus, resulting in increased appetite.⁶⁴ Thus, it is possible that favorable effects of metformin on appetite may be short lived. The only currently universally accepted treatment for prediabetes is lifestyle modification through increased physical activity, improved nutrition, and decreased sedentary activity. A detailed description of recommended lifestyle changes is beyond the scope of this report, but brief suggestions are included in the **Figure**. It is strongly recommended that all youth with prediabetes have access to an age-appropriate multidisciplinary intensive lifestyle modification program.

Follow-Up Care

There is no consensus recommendation on how frequently the pediatric patient with prediabetes should be seen. Current practice largely depends on the clinical setting and the goals for the visits. As stated, prediabetes, especially in the 6.0%-6.4% range, likely puts a child at increased risk for diabetes and CVD. Therefore, the need for intensive lifestyle intervention with improved nutrition and increased exercise in such youth should be stressed. Some pediatric providers see prediabetes patients every 3 months, as with a child with diabetes, whereas others see patients with prediabetes every 6 months. If possible, a multidisciplinary team, including a dietitian, an exercise specialist and a behavioral health specialist, should be gathered. In the setting of a weight management clinic, visits may be significantly more frequent.

Follow-Up Summary

Based on expert opinion, once prediabetes is identified, at least annual rescreening for diabetes is recommended unless there is a change that indicates a need for earlier retesting (weight change, symptoms of hyperglycemia, increased HbA1c, etc).

Summary

Prediabetes in youth has become a more frequent challenge facing patients, families, and providers alike. As we learn more about the natural history of prediabetes and T2DM, investigators have found distinct differences between these conditions in youth and adults, making extrapolation of adult practice problematic. Moreover, there is a lack of evidence-based management and treatment guidelines for prediabetes in youth. Although current approaches may differ, best clinical practice indicates that providers should screen at-risk youth for prediabetes, and intervene with intensive lifestyle modification through improved nutrition

and exercise. In some cases, pharmacologic intervention may also be warranted, but always in the context of lifestyle and behavioral changes. ■

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