Neglected-Noncompliant Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus with Complications

Afdal, Eka Agustia Rini

Abstract
Diabetes mellitus (DM) type 1 is a result of the systemic disorder of glucose metabolism disorder characterized by chronic hyperglycemia. This situation is caused by the autoimmune processes that destroy pancreatic β cells resulting in the production of insulin is reduced even halted, the sufferer will require exogenous insulin intake. This raises the complications of chronic disease that requires ongoing medication management and education for patients and their families. Uncontrolled disease will cause various metabolic complications, macrovascular and microvascular disorders that cause loss of quality and life expectancy of the patient.

Keywords: Type 1 diabetes mellitus, macrovascular, microvascular

Introduction
Type 1 diabetes mellitus (DM) is a progressive disease with risk factors for both macrovascular and microvascular complication. Uncontrolled diabetes mellitus results in complex metabolic and structural alterations, leading to abnormal carbohydrate, lipid, and protein metabolism, as well as long-term complications involving vascular tissue, kidney, and nerve. The long-term effects of DM include progressive development of specific long-term complication of retinopathy with potential blindness, nephropathy that may lead to end-stage renal failure, and/or neuropathy with the risk of foot ulcers, amputation, and feature of autonomic dysfunction. The complications of peripheral vascular and cerebrovascular disease lead to significant disability and in many cases premature mortality, and the disease imposes significant human and financial cost on the patients and the communities.

Prevention of long-term microvascular and macrovascular complications of diabetes must begin during the pediatric age range because there is no “grace” period. Complications appear very early in the course of diabetes, perhaps at the onset of disease, and the earliest stages often can be seen within 2 to 5 years after diagnosis. Because the long-term complications are affected by diabetes duration and glycemic control, appropriate diabetes management aimed at reducing glycemic burden is critical for all affected children and youth. The diabetes control and complication trial (DCCT) showed that intensive diabetes management was associated with the following percent risk reductions primary retinopathy (76%), progression of retinopathy (54%), development of proliferative or severe nonproliferative retinopathy (47%), microalbuminuria (39%), Frank albuminuria (54%), clinical neuropathy (60%).

In caring for children with diabetes, professionals need to understand the importance of involving adult in child’s diabetes management. Young children including school-aged children are unable to provide their own diabetes care and middle school and high school students should not be expected to independently provide all of their own diabetes management care. Thus, the education about how to care for a child and adolescent with diabetes must be provided to the entire family unit, emphasizing age and developmentally appropriate self care and integrating this into the child’s diabetes management.

Educational interventions have beneficial effects on diabetes management outcomes. Education is a continuous process and should be provided to the child or adolescent and their family at diagnosis and repeated as required at follow up. Diabetes education is more than a transfer of knowledge and should aim to result in the appropriate behavior changes needed for achieving and maintaining diabetes control.

The Purpose of this case to reminds us that the poor compliance of type 1 DM patient results in an increased incident of its complication.

Case Report
A 11 years 10 months old girl, AS, has been consigned from dr Ahcmad Mochtar hospital Bukittinggi with diabetic ketoacidosis. Patient was admitted to pediatric ward dr. M. Djamil hospital from...
April 17th to May 5th 2009 with Chief complain Decreased of consciousness since 7 hours before admission. Patient had been known got diabetes mellitus since 3 year ago, treated by pediatrician in Bukittinggi, control twice a month and got regular insulin 8 IU twice daily. Patient drink frequently since 3 year ago, frequency ± 12 glasses/day, 1-2 glasses/time and patient easy to tired. Body weigh looked decreased rapidly since 1 month ago, the highest body weight was 33 kg. Right ear was Itch since 1 day ago, patient crowbar it, than the ear out a clear secret, not smell. And 10 hours ago the right ear got bleeding, no history of trauma. Fever since 7 hours before admission, high and continue. Decreased of consciousness since 7 hours before admission. No seizure and vomits. No visual disturbance, no numbness, pain, paraesthesia. Patient eaten three times a day (rice 1 glass at breakfast, 1.5 glass at lunch and 1 glass at diner, egg or meat, fish and vegetable), between meal, patient got snack and fruit. Patient admission of 8 IU regular insulin 15 minutes before breakfast and dinner. Frequency of urinate increased 7-10 times/day, quantity a half glass each time, normal color. Patient had been brought up to Achmad Mochtar hospital before, and had random blood glucose 479 mg/dl, ketone bodies (+), then consigned to dr. M. Djamil hospital with normal salin infusion, used up 400 cc.

Patient had been experienced decreased of consciousness three times before. First, 3 years ago, hospitalized in Achmad Mochtar hospital for 3 days and discharged with 5 IU regular insulin twice daily. Second, 6 months later, hospitalized for 1 week and discharged with 8 IU regular insulin. And the third, 3 months later, hospitalized for 3 days and discharge with 8 IU regular insulin. The patient was forced discharge to each admission. The pediatrician had been explained to her family that patient should refer to M. Djamil hospital to get better diabetes management since there was a pediatric endocrinologist at M. Djamil hospital, but the family refused. Patient was in low social econ status and medical treatment was public charge by jamkesmas. Her mother was 45 year old, body height 160), senior high school graduated, work as farmer with income ± Rp 30.000/day. Patient and her family live in Tilatang Kamang-Agam Regency.

General appearance was severely ill, unconscious (GCS 3 = E1M1V1). Blood pressure 90/50 mmHg, pulse rate 124 x/minute respiratory rate 36 x/minute (deeply), and body temperature 39 ºC. Body weight was 25 kg (<P 3 CDC growth chart 2000), body height was 136 cm (<P 3 CDC growth chart 2000, height age 9.5 year, target height 148 cm <P 3 CDC growth chart 2000, genetic height potential 150 cm – 157.5 cm). Weight for age 62%, height for age 91%, weight for height 79%. Nutritional status was undernourished. No sign of cyanosis, anemic, icteric or oedema. No deformity at head and head circumference was 52 cm (normal, Nellhaus curve). Skin was warm with less subcutan fat and no crazy pavement dermatosis. There was no enlargement of lymph node. Hair looked quite blonde, difficult to take out. Eyes looked sunken, conjunctiva was not anemic, sclera was not icteric, pupil was isocor, circumference 3 mm, direct and indirect light reflexes were normal. There was nasal flare. There was edema on meatus acusticus externus of right ear, seroushemoragic discharge, pressure pain and stretched pain tragus and antitragus difficult to evaluate. Throat was in normal limit. Muscosa of mouth and lips were dry, no oral thrush, no caries on teeth. JVP 5-2 cmH2O and no rigidity of neck.

The chest was symmetrical, retraction on epigastrium and intercostals. Heart sound was normal with no murmur, Breath sound vesicular, no rales and whezing. Abdomen was soft, non tender, liver and spleen were not palpable, less skin elasticity and bowell sound was normal. There was general white spot on vulva, edge was eritema, pubertal state A1M1P1. Extremities was warm, refilling capillary was good, no cyanosis. Physiologic reflexes were normal and there were not pathology reflexes and no signs of meningeal signs.

Hemoglobin 14.5 g%, WBC 30.400/mm³, DC 0/1/11/69/13/6. Random blood sugar 581 mg/dl, urine reduction (++), keton bodies (++), protein (-), bilirubin (-) Urobilin (+), leucosecyt (-), Fecal examination were normal. Blood gas analysis: pH 6.8; 261 mgHg; PO2 158 mmHg; HCO3 and BE were unmeasureable, saturation 95%. Sodium 141 mEq/L (true value was 150 mEq/L) Corrected sodium concentration can be calculated as: sodium + [2 x (glucose - 5.5)] / 5.5 (all values in mmol/L; 1 mmolglucose= 18 mg/dl). The calculation can be simplified to 2 mEq/L of sodium to be added for every 5.5 mmol/L of glucose above 5.5 mmol/L. Kalium 4.6 mEq/L.

Diagnosis was diabetic ketoacidosis ec type 1 DM, otitis externa, vulvovaginalis candidacies, undernourish. Patient was managed by regular insulin (RI) 0.1 IU/kg/hour (50 IU of RI in 500 cc NaCl 0.9% [25 cc/hours = 24 drip/minute/micro]), Mannitol 20% 0.25 mg/kg (30 cc) in 30 minutes, cefotaxim 2 x 1 gram IV, paracetamol 250 mg supposituria, vulva hygiene and clotrimazole cream. Acidosis was corrected by sodium bicarbonate 50 mEq (half of measured dosage [0.3 x (15 – HCO3) x BW]).

12 hours after admission patient was in consciousness, fever still continue, no seizure, and no vomit. Moderately ill, GCS 15 (E4M3S5), BP 100/70 mmHg, pulse rate 100 x/minute, respiratory rate 28 x/minute, temperature 38.1 ºC. Others physical examination still same. Blood gas and electrolyte report: pH 7.32; PCO2 16 mmHg; PO2 90 mmHg; HCO3 8.2 mmHg; BE -15.4; saturation 90%, sodium 144 mEq/L, kalium 3.0 mEq/L. Random blood sugar 369 mg/dl, 455 mg/dl, 261 mg/dl, 182 mg/dl, 241 mg/dl consecutively. Because blood glucose was < 250 mg/dl, we decided to exchange NaCl 0.9% infusion to 2A (glucose 10%) 16 drip/minute/macro. RI drip decreased to 20 drips/minute/micro.

The otolaringologist found otitis externa and gave ofloxacin eardrop 5 drops twice a day and advice to continue antibiotic. The dermatologist did not find vaginal candidacies, she found shallow ulcer and was diagnosed as banal ulcer, given fucidic acid cream as therapy. The ophthalmologist found no papil edema and there were not pathology reflexes and both of retina and conclusion as moderate non proliferative diabetic retinopathy (NPDR), no specific treatment was given.

Second day, blood glucose was stable with value between 110-150 mg/dl and keton bodies was negative, we decided to stop RI drip and substitute to
subcutan insulin with 2/3 of total doses had been given (24 hours) = 2/3 x 60 IU = 45 IU (8 IU RI and 12 IU intermediate insulin before breakfast, 9 IU RI before lunch and 8 IU RI and 8 IU intermediate insulin before dinner). We give oral intake 1900 kcal (recommended to RDA). At the first meal time RI drip still continue until 60 minute after meal and then to be stoped.

We consult about the diet to dietitian and involving mother. The patient got 1900 kcal, there were breakfast 20% (400 kcal) at 06.00, Lunch 30% (500 kcal) at 12.00, dinner 20% (400 kcal) at 18.00 and snack 10% (200 kcal) at 09.00, 15.00 and 21.00. Blood glucose was checked 7 times daily, 30 minute before and 2 hour after meal time and at mid night. To sure the patient got accurate diet, controlling did by dietitian, family, nurse and doctor. We gave education to patient and parent, explained about type 1 DM, how it important to control blood glucose to prevent complication and the role of insulin (types, doses, how to inject, location of injection, storage).

Patient condition was better day by day. Blood glucose were still not stable with range 85 – 154 mg/dl before breakfast, 100 – 202 mg/dl after breakfast, 84 – 171 mg/dl before lunch, 66 – 221 mg/dl after lunch, 67 – 256 mg/dl before dinner, 57 – 311 mg/dl after dinner and 65 – 141 mg/dl at mid night. So we adjust dose of insulin based on basal bolus system. At the 10th day, before breakfast insulin doses was 8 IU RI and 13 IU intermediate insulin, before lunch was 6 IU RI, before dinner was 4 IU RI and 5 IU intermediate insulin (1.3 IU/kg). Education to patient and family continues every day about type 1 DM, used of insulin, basic diet advice, blood glucose monitoring, normal blood glucose level and glucose target, acute and chronic complications, exercise, and management during illness.

Mother could take and inject insulin by herself under a doctor’s order especially in adjusted insulin doses, parent still had mistaken amount of insulin to be given based on daily blood glucose with basal bolus regiment. Blood glucose and doses of insulin were fill in a log book. Patient and family learn modification of diet from dietitian (kind and amount of food). HbA1c and C-peptide could not be done cause of no cost. Vital sign and other physical examination were normal. Blood glucose level relatively stable, the most value ranged between 100 – 190 mg/dl, doses of insulin were 9 IU RI and 15 IU intermediate insulin for breakfast, 6 IU RI before lunch, 4 IU RI and 5 IU intermediate insulin before dinner, totally 1.4 IU/kg.

At 18th day, patient want to discharge but since we doubt about the compliance of patient and her family that they still couldn’t adjusted the dosage of insulin by themselves, we did not permitted them. Even though, the family forces to discharge with much reason. Condition of the patient was good. There were no any complaints. BW 30 kg (P <3 CDC 2000), blood glucose quite stable (100-180 mg/dl). She was given 1900 kcal and diet guideline from dietitian. Patient had a portable blood glucose meter and could use it. We give advice to the patient and family especially mother to take diet suitable with the guideline, check blood glucose every day and record in a log book, inject insulin before breakfast, lunch and dinner. Patient and family were reminded about the signs and symptoms of hypo and hyperglycemia, and if she was suspected in hypo or hyperglycemia or the patient had problems (such as she gets sick, doesn’t want to eat, etc), they can contact a doctor and control every month.

The first control was 3 month after discharge. Patient was accompanied by mother. There was sometimes the symptom of diabetes (polypagi, polyuria and polydipsia), no visual disturbance, no numbness, pain, paraesthesia. The insulin sometimes was not injected especially in the afternoon since the patient was being at school. The insulin dosage was not followed the instruction given before. Doses of insulin were 15 IU RI and 5 IU intermediate insulin for breakfast, 5 IU RI before lunch, 7 IU RI and 4 IU intermediate insulin before dinner, totally 1.2 IU/kg. Blood glucose was not routinely checked, only being examined once a day at most, with the range of 61-170 mg/dl. Blood pressure was 110/60 mmHg, body weight was 30 kg (P <3 CDC 2000), body height was 137 cm (P <3 CDC 2000). There was no skin infection and lipidatrophy or lipohypertrophy. Pubertal state was A1M1P1. Physiological reflexes were normal. Patient and parent was given reeducation especially about complication, we advised patient to measure blood glucose more frequently and contact us to adjust doses of insulin.

The second control was 2 months later. Patient accompanied by mother. Patient never contacts us, and if we contact her and family, they report that she was in a good condition. There was sometimes the symptom of diabetes (polypagi, polyuria and polydipsia), no visual disturbance, no numbness, pain, paraesthesia. The insulin was still not routinely administered, especially at noon. The insulin dosages were not followed instruction. Doses of insulin were 6 IU RI and 5 IU intermediate insulin for breakfast, 5 IU RI before lunch, 8 IU RI and 6 IU intermediate insulin before dinner, totally 1 IU/kg. Blood glucose was not routinely checked, only being examined once a day at most, with the range of 81-130 mg/dl. Blood pressure was 110/70 mmHg, body weight was 30 kg (P < 3 CDC 2000), body height was 137 cm (P < 3 CDC 2000). There was no skin infection and lipidatrophy or lipohypertrophy. Pubertal state was A1M1P1. Physiological reflexes were normal.

HbA1c. Eight months after discharge, there was sometime symptom of diabetes (polypagi, polyuria and polydipsia), no visual disturbance, no numbness, pain and paraesthesia. The insulin was still not routinely administered and dosages were still not followed instruction. Doses of insulin were 10 IU RI and 4 IU intermediate insulin for breakfast, 4 IU RI before lunch, 9 IU RI and 6 IU intermediate insulin before dinner, totally 1.1 IU/kg. Blood pressure was 110/70 mmHg, body weight was 33 kg (P < 3 CDC 2000), body height was 139 cm (P < 3 CDC 2000). There was no skin infection and lipidatrophy or lipohypertrophy. Pubertal state was A1M1P1. Physiological reflexes were normal. Urinalysis were reduction (-), protein (±). The patient had a poor compliance in management of her disease. By that, we measure HbA1c, lipid profile and screening for complication, such as nephropathy and reevaluation of eye for retinopathy by the fund of donation.

The measure of HbA1c was 16.9% (poor glycaemic control), for lipid: total cholesterol was 250 mg/dl (<200 mg/dl), triglyceride 226 mg/dl (<150 mg/dl), LDL cholesterol 182 mg/dl (<100 mg/dl), HDL cholesterol 48 mg/dl (≥ 40 mg/dl). Screening for nephropathy, qualitative microalbuminuria was positive (negative). For future examination of kidney function
we measure ureum and creatinin with result 25 mg/dl and 0.3 mg/dl for ureum and creatinin respectively. Reevaluation of eye were visus 5/10 and 5/7 for right and left eye, clear lens of both eye, edema of right macula and decrease fovea reflex with conclusion moderate non proliferative diabetic retinopathy ocular dextra and suggest to monitor 1 month later.

Patient was managed by Captopril 0.1 mg/kg every 8 hours, low saturated fat intake (<10% of energy intake), regular exercise and reeducation and give explanation that complications was found in patient and if she was still in poor compliance, she will be in a great problem in several years later, such as having renal failure and blindness. Suggested other family member with better knowledge involved in management.

Discussion

Type 1 DM is an autoimmune disease in which the immune system destroys the insulin-producing beta cells of the pancreas that regulate blood glucose. Type 1 DM has an acute onset, with children and adolescents usually able to pinpoint when symptoms began. Onset can occur at any age, but it most often occurs in children and young adults. Since the pancreas can no longer produce insulin, people with type 1 diabetes require daily injections of insulin for life.5,6

Every child and adolescent with type 1 diabetes, including those from rural and remote areas, should have access to optimal medical management. Health care professionals who look after children must make advocacy for the child one of their key responsibilities. Children and adolescents should have access to care by a multidisciplinary team trained in childhood and adolescent diabetes. It should be recognized that the members of the management team include the patient with diabetes and his/her family. In rural and geographically remote areas, children with diabetes may be successfully cared for by a local paediatrician/physician with training and experience in pediatric diabetes access to resources, support and advice from a tertiary centre diabetes team. In case of ketoacidosis, a specialist/consultant pediatrician with training and expertise in the management of diabetic ketoacidosis should direct management.4 This patient had been labeled as a neglected and noncompliant patient since she and her family always asked for discharge to every admission. In Bukittinggi patient did not get adequate education and treatment. At first admission, she only hospitalized for 3 days so they did not get diabetes education completely, and it was approved by her hospitalization with DKA. In every admission to Achmad Mochtar hospital, she was advised to refer to M. Djamil hospital to get better diabetes management, but she and her family refused that.

The most common precipitating factors in the development of diabetic ketoacidosis include infection, often as a result of inadequate insulin therapy during intercurrent illness and insulin omission.4,7 The last admission in M. Djamil hospital with DKA precipitating by ear infection and banal ulcer in vulva. The risk factors for DKA were poor metabolic control and previous episodes of DKA. Poor metabolic control for this patient were showed by the present of polyuria and polydipsia, weight loss or failure to gain weight with growth, poor growth, signs of diabetes complications, elevated HbA1c and elevated blood lipids. Suboptimal medical management leads to poor diabetes control which may impair growth, delay puberty and lead to irreversible long-term diabetic microvascular and macrovascular complications. Quality of life and life expectancy may be significantly reduced under these circumstances.4,7 The growth of this patient was impaired, after 8 months of treatments, based on CDC 2000 growth chart body height was decrease from P3 to < P3. Even though her body height was still in the range of height potential genetic and bone age was average girl, it was suggested that poor control of diabetic was contributed to her growth impairment.

Patient was admitted in M. Djamil Hospital after 3 years diagnosis of DM. Along after diagnosis, there were no screenings to long term complications. The microvascular complications were found at the first time in M. Djamil hospital. The ophthalmologist found sign of retinopathy diabetes in this patient. Renal complication (nephropathy) should not be performed earlier because of financial problem. It was done several months later. There were no sign of neuropathy in this patient.

In the initial stages of retinopathy, patients are generally asymptomatic, however in the more advanced stages of the disease, patients may experience symptoms, including blurred vision, distortion, or visual acuity loss. This patient did not complain about visual disturbance, however from eye examination the visus was impaired, and in retina there were macula edema and decreased fovea reflex of the right eye. Stage of retinopathy is moderate NPDR. Macular edema is the most common cause of vision loss in patients with NPDR. Stage of retinopathy in this patient did not need special treatment, it was expected by good metabolic control progressivity of retinopathy could be delayed.

Screening for renal complication of this patient was done by measure microalbuminuria. Diabetic nephropathy in this patient was at third stage, cause of found microalbuminuria (+)/AER 30-300 mg/24 hour, (20-200 µg/min). Patient was in normotensive and renal function still in normal range. In normotensive patients with microalbuminuria, ACEI reduce urinary albumin excretion. Good metabolic control and captopril administration were expected to postpone the progressivity of nephropathy and prolong time to end-stage renal failure. In adults with type 1 DM, the presence of microalbuminuria in the second decade of the disease is highly predictive of progression to overt nephropathy or end-stage renal disease (ESRD) over the following 10–15 years. The progression of nephropathy in adolescents with microalbuminuria detected in the first decade of diabetes is somewhat less predictable than in adults.4,8

Poor metabolic control, younger age of onset and lower socioeconomic group are predictors of rehospitalization rates which may indicate poor adjustment to diabetes.4 Poor metabolic control of this patient might be caused of suboptimal education and less elementary knowledge of patient and family about diabetic and its management. Socioeconomic factor also contributed, even thought medical treatment was public charge by jamsesmas, but sometimes insulin preparation of jamsesmas was out of stock. And for self glucose monitoring, parent might be prepare own budget, so that blood glucose was not measured every
day and if it was measured, it was not more than one a day, therefore adjustment of insulin dosages became less optimal. It needed more intensive education, better control of others family members to monitor compliance and suitability management with education was given. Donation was also needed to optimized therapy and maintained patient in a good metabolic control.

References