

TYPE 1 DIABETES

Type 1 diabetes is also known as insulin dependent diabetes. It is generally recognized that Type 1 Diabetes is caused by an auto immune reaction, which means the body's defence mechanism attacks the cells in the pancreas which produce insulin. These cells called beta cells produce little or no insulin after the attack.

Insulin is a very important hormone, which helps the body to transport sugar to cells where it is converted to energy or stored for future use. This may explain why people with diabetes complain of being tired as they are not converting sugar to energy because they are producing little or no insulin.

We do not fully understand what causes the body to destroy its own insulin cells when you have Type 1 Diabetes. You need insulin for life.....to survive.....so therefore a person with Type 1 Diabetes needs to take insulin injections otherwise they will become seriously ill and can be fatal.

Type 1 diabetes can occur at any stage in life, but is predominantly seen in children and young adults. The onset of Type 1 Diabetes is sudden and a person can become very ill, very quickly.

Symptoms of Type 1 Diabetes:

- Abnormal thirst and a dry mouth
- Frequent urination
- Extreme tiredness/lack of energy
- Constant hunger
- Sudden weight loss
- Slow-healing wounds
- Recurrent infections
- Blurred vision

Treatment of Type 1 Diabetes

Usually diagnosis is made on hospital admission and once treated with insulin, a person will begin to feel much better and symptoms quickly dissipate. Also like everyone else in the population, healthy lifestyle choices such as stop smoking, healthy diet, exercise and reduce alcohol intake are encouraged.

It is estimated that about 30,000 people in Ireland have Type 1 Diabetes.



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Services Available At Diabetes Insight for Type 1 Diabetes

- 1-2-1 consultations with tailor made plan
- Access to the latest in blood glucose monitoring equipment
- Lifetime journey
- Psychological supports for Family, Children & Teenagers
- Carbohydrate Counting
- Cookery Courses
- Workshops

Other Resources

Diabetes Insight is affiliated with Diabetes T1 Ireland which is a support & advocacy group founded and run by individuals with Type 1 Diabetes for people with Type 1 Diabetes in Ireland. To learn more about Diabetes T1 Ireland please visit their website www.diabetest1ireland.com

Irelands No 1 Resource for Advanced Diabetes Education, Support & Services