

Hospital stay and the risk of death are increased by hypoglycemia

A recent study has shown that hypoglycemia is associated with greater length of stay and increased mortality in hospitalized patients.¹ In critically ill patients in intensive care units, intensive glucose control resulted in biochemical and clinically severe hypoglycemia (SH), which were associated with increased mortality risk.² In the latest issue of *Diabetic Hypoglycemia* (www.hypodiab.com), Farnoosh Farrokhi *et al*³ review the complications of hypoglycemia, the association between mortality risk and insulin infusion, and clinical strategies to prevent hypoglycemia in the hospital setting.

Outside the hospital setting, SH is relatively common and may be associated with serious morbidity. Glucagon is an effective emergency treatment for SH in the community setting, can be administered by lay people and should be readily available to treat those at risk. The use of glucagon is reviewed in the current issue.⁴

References

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