

DIABETES:



Sex and the
Dungeon

Forward

In August of 2006 I ran for the title of Mr. World Leather. Although someone else took home the sash, I was encouraged to continue my platform of “Diabetic Awareness” as it has become a disease that has taken on epidemic proportions and is affecting nearly everyone in the Leather community. In my research, I have come across many in our community who are either diabetic someone who is either diabetic, knows someone who is diabetic, or has a family member who is diabetic. Obesity has become a serious threat worldwide and is among one of the leading causes of type 2 diabetes.

Putting it bluntly, we tend to enable segments of our community by telling them it is ok to be ‘fat’. We use euphemisms to hide the fact that borderline diabetes is real and can be altered by adjusting your

eating habits and exercise habits. In the meantime we continue to practice our brand of sex BDSM not being aware of the dangers that can cause complications. A simple bondage scene can turn deadly if both players are unaware of neuropathy and the circulation problems that can occur if the restraints aren't properly adjusted. Extremities should be checked regularly to make sure there is no change in the temperature of the bound extremities. Often the sub will not mention any discomfort out of some misplaced sense of 'being a good boy' and not wanting to 'annoy' the dom. We will go into this a little more later in the booklet.

When was the last time you attended a Leather event that offered food choices for diabetics? Currently there are more Gluten-Free products available at restaurants, events, and supermarkets than diabetic friendly choices, even though

diabetes is the far more prevalent threat. There are opportunities at open buffets for vegetables but no sugar-free desserts and although alcohol is a diabetic no-no, sugar free mixers at local bars can go a long way toward keeping blood sugar levels manageable.

Sex and BDSM are a major part of who we are as members of the Leather community and health awareness, especially in our sex play is important, our lives depend on it. BE AWARE! This booklet is meant to bring some awareness to what it is that we do, when it comes to kink and fetish play in the playroom aka the dungeon.

Including all the information on diabetes would require huge volumes and still the information would be incomplete! So much is still not known about the disease that claims over eight million lives a year through related complications. My

research focuses on Diabetes: Sex, and the Dungeon, is personal because I am a Leather man since 1974 and a type 2 diabetic since 1991.

A member of my leather family was also diabetic but has since passed, due to complications. One of my two boys is also diabetic. The past few years have seen many new challenges but also much research that brings us closer to a cure. It is the new challenges that has prompted me to do a revision of this booklet. For the last decade I have made this booklet available at as many leather events as I can. It is also a free download on my website (www.cainberlinger.books) I am very proud to say that it is also a regular booklet that is available in Amsterdam, Holland by standing request.

If you are a doctor or specialist in diabetes and you can add to what is presented

here, please contact me. There is so limited information on the topic of Sex and Diabetes that any assistance in making this a better source of understanding and helps in preventing playroom calamities will be greatly appreciated. *Sex in the Dungeon* is intended to be a positive step toward our awareness as a community on the dangers of diabetes!

Cain Berlinger
www.MrCain.com

Disclaimer: All the information in this booklet is for INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY. Any action taken regarding insulin or blood sugar control should be on the advice of your doctor or diabetic physician. I am not a medical doctor. For further information visit the American Diabetic Association <http://www.diabetes.org/home.jsp>

Diabetes: What is it?

Diabetes (diabetes mellitus): a condition characterized by hyperglycemia resulting from the body's inability to use blood glucose for energy. In type 1 diabetes, the pancreas no longer makes insulin and therefore blood glucose cannot enter the cells to be used for energy. In type 2 diabetes, either the pancreas does not produce enough insulin or the body is unable to use insulin correctly.

Type 1 diabetes: a condition characterized by high blood glucose levels caused by a total lack of insulin...occurs when the body's immune system attacks the insulin-producing beta cells in the pancreas and destroys them. The pancreas then produces little or no insulin. Type 1 diabetes develops most often in young people but can appear in adults.

Type 2 diabetes: a condition characterized by high blood glucose levels caused by either a lack of insulin or the body's inability to use insulin efficiently. Type 2 diabetes develops most often in middle-aged and older adults but can also appear in young people.

Gestational diabetes, which affects up to 14 percent of pregnant women, is defined as having higher-than-normal blood sugar levels during pregnancy.

While the cause of diabetes is unknown, there are factors that make people more at risk for diabetes. You may be at risk if you:

Are 45 years old or over; are overweight (especially if you carry most of your weight around your waist area) are a member of a high-risk group, (Aboriginal, Hispanic, Asian, or African descent) have a parent, brother or sister with diabetes, have given birth to a baby that weighed over 9 pounds at birth, or have had gestational diabetes, have high cholesterol or other fats in the blood have higher-than normal blood glucose levels have high blood pressure or heart disease For those already diagnosed with diabetes, the disease can be aggravated by stress, excess sugar intake or by developing an infection.

Do you have it?

The four “classic” symptoms of diabetes are:

Increased thirst

Increased urination

Feeling very hungry

Weight loss in spite of increased eating

Every cell in the body needs energy in order to live. People get their energy by converting the food that they eat into fats and sugar (glucose). This glucose travels in the bloodstream as a component of normal blood. Individual cells then remove some of that glucose from the blood to use for energy. The substance that allows the cells to take glucose from the blood is a protein called 'insulin'.

Insulin is created by beta cells that are located in the pancreas. The pancreas is an organ located next to the stomach.

When glucose in the blood increases, the beta cells release insulin into the bloodstream, which distributes it to the cells in the body.

The insulin attaches itself to proteins on the cell surface, and it allows glucose to

move from the blood into the cell, where it is converted into energy.

A person with type 2 or gestational diabetes either cannot produce enough insulin, or they are “insulin insensitive”, which means that their body can't use insulin properly. A person with type 1 diabetes produces little or no insulin.

Without enough insulin, the cells in the body do not have a way to use the glucose that is in the bloodstream, as a result the cells ‘starve’ while the glucose level in the blood rises.

In response to a lack of energy in the cells, the brain sends out signals that tell the person to eat more. Meanwhile, other cells in the body try to obtain energy by asking the body to break down fat and muscle protein. The liver can convert the muscle protein into glucose. A vicious cycle

happens: more glucose is being created, but it cannot be turned into energy because there is not enough insulin to transfer the glucose into the cells of the body.

When too much glucose is in the blood, it 'leaks' into the urine. The urine of healthy people contain no sugar. In diabetes, sugar in the urine draws water to it just like a dry sponge draws water. This person produces large amounts of urine because of all this water. All of that urination makes the person thirsty, causing them to drink excessively.

These responses to a lack of insulin lead most people with diabetes to show the four classic symptoms of diabetes: a) they lose weight in spite of b) an increased appetite, c) they drink excessively, and d) urinate excessively.

Dealing with the complications of Diabetes

Diabetes can lower the average life expectancy by up to 15 years.

The complications of diabetes can be far reaching, and they can negatively affect your quality of life and not just the sexual aspects. The long-term complications can include:

Eye problems -- Over time, high blood sugar and high blood pressure can damage the micro-vessels lining the eye. In fact, about 12,000 new cases of blindness caused by diabetes occur in the United States each year.

Amputations of a foot or leg -- People with diabetes are at risk for serious foot problems. High glucose levels can damage the nerves in your feet leading to a serious infection or affect blood vessels and result in poor blood flow and greater risk of infection.

Approximately 20,000 people in the United States have a foot or leg removed each year.

Kidney disease -- Approximately 4,000 cases of kidney failure occur each year in the U.S. among people with diabetes. Diabetes is also the leading cause of end stage renal disease. Another 3 million people, many of whom suffer from diabetes, have stage 3 kidney disease -- which eventually leads to kidney failure.

Heart attack and stroke -- Diabetes can damage the large blood vessels that surround the heart. This causes the heart to work harder to pump blood to all the body parts and increases the risk of heart attack and stroke. There is much that we must do to take charge of diabetes and prevent these devastating illnesses. Here are some tips to help ensure proper control and decrease your likelihood of becoming a statistic:

1. Regular contact with your family physician and/or endocrinologist. Keep annual checks on your glucose levels, blood pressure, and lipids. Ask your doctor to do a Hb pA1c test, which shows how well your diabetes is controlled over a two to three-month time period. It will help you be confident that you are doing a good job overall. If you have diabetes and your doctor does not routinely administer this

test, you might consider getting another primary care physician.

2. Test your blood sugar on a regular basis. This will help you judge how well your diabetes plan is working and when changes are needed.

3. Weight loss -- 80 percent of people with Type II diabetes are overweight. Achieving and maintaining ideal body weight is the first line of defense in controlling blood sugar. Follow a sensible, and well balanced weight loss plan and enlist the help of an expert if that has been a struggle for you. An even modest amount of weight loss, as little as 10 percent of body weight, has been shown to improve your glucose levels.

4. Follow a nutritionally adequate meal plan, which includes three meals each day and a bedtime snack. Ideally, meals

should be eaten around the same time each day, with consistent amounts of food at each meal. People with diabetes can still enjoy most foods. However, portion control is very important as the problem is usually one of excess serving sizes. It is also advisable to enjoy small mid-morning and afternoon snacks. Be aware of 'hidden' sugars and foods high in carbohydrate.

5. Exercise is especially important for people with diabetes. Regular exercise can help control blood sugar by decreasing the amount of glucose in your blood, burning extra calories and fat, aiding in weight loss, and increasing overall energy levels. Check with your doctor and choose an exercise plan that fits your life.

You play the most important role in your diabetes management. With a good team

around you of health professionals and loved ones, you can stay well for years to come.

Diabetes and Your Sex life

Diabetes comes with a higher risk of infections, and nerve damage that decreases pleasure and sensation, limited mobility, related nerve damage and erectile dysfunction. For *some* there is some loss of self-esteem due to feeling unattractive due to excess weight, being tired from high glucose levels; and vaginal dryness, according to the American Diabetes Association.

The axiom is more true of the BDSM community than any other because despite the whips and chains and toys; much of the pleasure from sex comes from between your ears -- not just between your legs.

Often times, people do not know they have diabetes. Type 2 comes on slowly, so it can be hard to catch, gradually creeping into the bedroom and making a person too tired, feeling too unattractive and just not interested due to the problems they face between the sheets, not even realizing what's caused this drop in desire. This research is as much about diabetes outset.

There are many complications of diabetes that may occur as a result of high blood glucose levels, high blood pressure and/or elevated blood fats. Neuropathy (an abnormal and usually degenerative state of the nervous system or nerves brought on by diabetes) is known to cause sexual dysfunction in up to 75 percent of men and up to 35 percent of women with diabetes.

Sexual Function

Many men and women, whether they have diabetes or not, have sexual problems. Although diabetes may affect sexual functioning in several ways, there are some things that you can look out for:

Menstruation

Women may find that the menstrual cycle affects blood sugar. It may appear that you have some difficulties controlling your blood sugar around the time of your menstrual period. You may find that your blood sugar is higher than normal the week before your period. You may need to exercise more and to avoid eating extra carbohydrates. Talk to your doctor about adjusting your insulin or any other medication at this time.

Women should watch out for blood sugar weirdness a few days before and after their periods. If you can find any menstrual-related patterns, you'll know to make adjustments in your diet, exercise, insulin, and sexual robustness.

High glucose in the blood means that more glucose is available in the vagina. This can trigger a yeast infection. Plenty of women discovered that they were diabetic as a result of recurrent yeast and urinary tract infections.

These problems can be due to an interruption in nervous-system feedback, problems in circulation, or a combination of both. Urinating before and after sex helps decrease the chances of getting urinary tract infections so going on your partner will be killing two birds with one stone, or stream.

Lubrication

Women with diabetes may also have difficulties with vaginal lubrication. You may also have trouble with sexual response because of nerve damage, or adverse effects of medication used to help control your diabetes.

Impotence

Impotence is the consistent inability to sustain an erection enough to engage in sexual intercourse. Many men have impotence problems at some point during their lives, especially after reaching age 50. For men with diabetes, these problems can arrive 10 to 15 years earlier than for men without diabetes.

Some estimates place the incidence of diabetes-related impotence in men at more than 40 percent.

Most men feel that intercourse is the main sexual act, and unfortunately it is the one act that requires an erection. It is commonly understood that the more (psychological) pressure you put on your penis, the less likely that it will stay erect. Sometimes nerve disease related to diabetes causes impotence. When nerves are damaged, the flow of blood to the penis may be lessened and an erection can't occur. Blood vessel damage can also cause impotence.

It may be that medications taken for diabetes, high blood pressure, or for other conditions can also be the cause. Diabetic-related impotence may be treated successfully, depending on the cause.

After Sex

If you use insulin, be aware that sometimes sex can cause low blood sugar levels. Test your blood sugar before having sex or consider eating just before or right afterwards as you would for exercise. Also, you may want to have a snack before going to sleep at night.

Be Aware-The Dungeon

Bondage

Are the restraints too tight? Will they put too much pressure on nerves, flesh and joints if the submissive moves about? Wrists and especially ankles change shape as the limbs move: ankles are bigger on a standing submissive, and this can put a lot of pressure on the exposed tendons if restraints were put on tight when the submissive is laid down. Is the

bondage so tight that the submissive can't change positions and there is pressure on a few small areas of flesh?

You can get a pressure sore in as little as two hours. A good rule of thumb is that you can always get a finger in between each restraint and the flesh of your submissive, without you helping your submissive to shift their weight or otherwise moving your submissive about.

Extremities

Wrist, ankles, knees and elbows are good for bondage because they are narrower points on the body that make bonds difficult to slip. But this also leads to the risk of circulation being cut off too, will produce numbness and in extreme cases damage to tissue deprived of oxygen and even blood clots that may travel to the heart, brain, or lungs.

You can reduce this risk by avoiding putting pressure anywhere you can feel a pulse: those are the points where arteries are vulnerable because they cross bone just under the skin. Also, you can monitor extremities by checking for numbness, by feeling the temperature of the limb and seeing if the captive can still feel sensations there.

Jewelry

Piercing: If you can't live without getting your 'love parts' pierced, (labia, Prince Albert, frenums, etc.) the chances of getting an infection are higher when your blood glucose levels are elevated. Infections will increase the scarring around piercing sites and they will make your glucose levels go even higher. Also, a tongue piercing will make your tongue swollen and sore, which will inspire you to

skip meals, which can lead to a hypoglycemic episode.

Caution: You might want to be cautious on the wearing of metal cock rings, not just during electro play but decreased circulation and numbness can be a problem with diabetes, and why risk making it worse? If you must wear a cock ring especially to maintain an erection (see above) be sure and get one that fits. If you are unable to insert an index finger between your penis and cock ring, it is a fair indicator that your cock ring is too tight and an erection may be painful and have difficulty residing.

As for aerobic activity, there's no rule that says exercise can't be done while you are naked at home rather than at a gym.

Exercise that is *Sexercise* and needs a diabetic caveat or two. For instance, one

acquaintance had a nasty experience while performing oral sex on her boyfriend. It was her first time, so she assumed the funny feeling she was having was from being nervous. She was kneeling over the boy when she fainted from low blood sugar, almost choking on his penis.

Safe Sex for diabetics includes keeping a pack of Lifesavers next to the condoms and lube. Although not a fashion must, the wearing of a medical ID tag or bracelet when you are out and about traveling or just picking up in the bars, parks, etc.

Diabetes doesn't mean you can't be as good or bad as anyone else in bed. It just means that you've got to plan ahead and jump through a few more hoops. Any kind of sex play that will alter your body's chemistry (immediate or long-term) should be handled with caution.

Checking your blood sugar before, during and after sex is the last thing anyone feels like doing. But until you understand your body's reactions while making love, especially with a new partner, taking frequent readings is the only way that you will learn.

You will want to learn about your body's reactions in the minutes and hours after sex. The muscles in a horny pelvis eat up extra glucose, especially when it's been rocking back and forth. And hormones like adrenaline, non-adrenaline, and prolactin are released during orgasm. They can change your blood sugar, sometimes dramatically.

A healthcare provider or diabetes educator can help you with monitoring lovemaking and its management strategies. Should you adjust your insulin downward? Is it a good idea to inject yourself in the

abdomen instead of your thigh before a love-making marathon, or does the jack-hammer thrusting of hips cancel any slow-down in the insulin absorption rate that you might hope to gain? Should you eat something other than your partner before, during or after sex?

It's usually best to avoid strenuous lovemaking whenever you aren't feeling well, or if you have high blood sugar. If you are diabetic, it is essential to try and educate your partner about diabetes, and how he or she can recognize your hypoglycemic episodes and other blood sugar needs and the hazards of poor eating habits. Your partner needs to know how to really be in charge, knowing what to do, and when to do it and how. They need to know orange juice and six raisins along with a packet of lifesavers should be nearby in case of an incident, can save your life.

BDSM

BDSM is anything that involves consensual power dynamics between partners in a caring relationship who share intimate fantasies and sexual desires. This can be as simple as a light spanking or a more intense and serious expression of a power exchange. BDSM may be an occasional pastime or a lifestyle involving a deep 24/7 relationship. People are into BDSM for the joy of the sadomasochistic pleasure, the dynamics of dominance and submission for fetish gratification or to dabble on the sexual fringe.

There are situations to be aware of for diabetics in dungeon play: Emergency locks should be in place, which are especially important for those experiencing low blood sugar. They need to be immediately released and given a glucose source. There should also, when possible,

be specially adapted emergency play/space. The Dom should be aware of medical/first aid protocols.

FIRST RULE: DO NOT PANIC! Beyond sterility and bondage awareness, there is not a great deal involved in securing safety in your play. Although awareness is seriously important we are not medics but can easily prevent a situation from getting more out of hand by following the simple rules.

“My previous Master developed extensively ritualistic sterile behaviors in our needle play after I was diagnosed. He used sterile field procedures throughout the whole scene, which definitely added a layer of intensity for us, and for those who watched. We are more cautious with needles and things that may cause infection; we always have something to bring my glucose level back to normal if it

drops. We ensure that I have eaten and had all my meds before we play.

I have to admit, we don't play as much with me standing. Impact play sometimes lasts for an hour or two, and it can't when my feet and ankles swell or my knees collapse," boi toby.

In the mainstream of society sexual mores it can be devastating to a man's ego if news of his erection problems becomes public. A man will avoid embarrassment by not sharing this information, or by denying it.

Fortunately, the leather, fetish, and BDSM community have found a myriad, a cornucopia of things to do to activate their partner that not only enhances the sexual experience physically, spiritually, and emotionally but that makes the penis more

of a ensemble member than the star performer.

Diabetic Awareness plays a very active part in the lives of regular sex activity although the hazards are relatively few. Rarely is there the need to use a safe word because your partner has reached his or her limits. In the BDSM community, the diversity of play requires more awareness. In BDSM, sex can include restraints, many toys, use of equipment, and often even psychological play.

Before diabetics play hard, they need to be sure they are carbohydrate loaded. I can't stress this enough, but be sure to check your sugars before you play. Diabetics need to be aware, as well as their partners, that any kind of percussion play, or flogging or anything that will leave a mark or a bruise will take longer to heal.

Infections can be avoided with a sterile cleansing of toys and wounds after play.

When it comes to bondage, some serious decision making needs to be made as well as some seriously close monitoring. Diabetics are prone to issues of circulation. Handcuffs, mummification, and suspension scenes can provoke some serious health issues.

Have your partner check regularly for coolness and/or numbness in the extremities. Suspension scenes are especially troublesome as is tight binding, obviously! In upside down suspension scenes, anything that pushes the blood towards the eyes, which is one place serious things can happen, is a health risk.

Anyone claiming to be a Master or Dom must take care of His/Her subs or slaves and need to be sure that their 'charges'

are not in restraints at the time they may need their medications, and be prepared to be called upon to administer proper dosages of food or insulin as required. Masters need to be especially cognizant in monitoring their slaves during extreme play. If your partner is diabetic, and living with you, their medical plan should cover disposable needles as well as alcohol swabs. If not, then help them to find a plan that does cover these essentials.

Alcohol, Recreational Drugs and Diabetes

The drug ecstasy can make you think you have boundless energy when your body is on its way to a blood sugar low, and blood sugar lows from alcohol are the most dangerous of all. Keep in mind that when you have been partying, others around you will assume that any unusual behavior is from being drunk or stoned.

What's worse? Drinking alcohol or staying up all night partying?

If you indulge in liquor in moderation and if you very occasionally party into the late hours, those occurrences can be managed. If you take insulin, you need to adjust your insulin doses and then test and readjust your medications, and then test and readjust either your insulin, or your

food or both. Keep in mind that dancing is aerobic exercise, so you have to test and adjust your insulin or medication accordingly.

Alcohol blocks your body's ability to respond to low blood sugar, so you will want to avoid exercised induced hypoglycemia (abnormal decrease of sugar in the blood). You also need to ensure that your routine the next day isn't disrupted; you want to stay on schedule with insulin and not sleep in so late you miss a shot.

After a straight shot of any liquor the liver begins processing the alcohol. In some ways straight shots are better than beer or a sweet mixed drink. With beer, there is the added effect of the carbohydrates.

The carbohydrate effect takes hold and lasts for two to six hours, raising sugar

levels. The effect of the alcohol on your system does not hit until 6-12 hours after you drink it. So you will have high blood sugars for four to six hours after drinking beer and then overnight, toward dawn when you may be asleep, the high carbohydrate effect goes away and you become in danger of hypoglycemia something you could sleep through if you are drunk or just tired without a safe way for your body to boost the low blood glucose level. If you drink 10 beers you could go to sleep or pass out at night and not wake up in the morning!

If you have a mixed drink with a sugary mixer like a cola, you will get a faster and higher spike than beer. Six to sixteen hours later you hit a low that may be risky if you are not paying attention. Use a diet mixer or club soda so you do not have to figure out the first few hours of high glucose spikes.

Should people with diabetes completely avoid wine?

Alcoholic beverages are a common part of our social lives.

Each adult must decide whether or not to use alcohol. When making this decision, you should understand what the potential effects of alcohol are on your health. Although alcohol has little effect on blood glucose control, it may worsen other medical problems.

As a general guideline, for people using insulin, two alcoholic beverages may be used in addition to their regular meal plan. No food should be omitted in exchange for an alcoholic drink. Alcohol is best substituted for fat choices and in some cases extra bread/starch choices.

Some alcoholic beverages contain higher amounts of sugar and carbohydrates -- these include sweet wines, sweet vermouth, and wine coolers. Use these drinks sparingly as they may increase your blood sugar levels excessively. During fermentation most sugar in wine converts to alcohol minimizing the risk to diabetics.

The treatment of diabetes before the era of insulin consisted of various dull and unpalatable diets. One of the diets was designed by the French physician, Bouchardat, who replaced the dangerous foods (starch and sugar) with other foods like protein and fat. His "animal food" diet consisted mainly of fatty meat; however, this French Doctor encouraged the patients to wash their "animal diet" down with red wine. Dr. Bouchardats book "De la diabetes Sucre" recommended 1-4 litres of Claret or Burgundy of proper maturity at least four years old per day. The ample

supply of wine served its purpose as an important carbohydrate-free source of energy with the added bonus of making the meals tolerable for thousands of diabetic patients.

How much alcohol should diabetics drink?

A maximum of two standard drinks per day (14 drinks per week) for women A maximum of three standard drinks per day (21 drinks per week) for men.

Diabetes and Recreational Drugs

This section is necessary in dealing realistically with the way many participants in the sex and BDSM world deal with recreational drugs. In many cases, drugs are introduced into extensive scenes and often to stimulate intense play. I DO NOT ADVOCATE drug use or the abuse of any substance that is used to stimulate or dull the senses. Besides killing the purity of the scene, drugs interfere with the body's natural endorphins and can impair good judgment in a situation that is often life threatening in nature, and injuries can occur. Some drugs also tend to block certain pain receptors that alert the player that something is wrong.

That being said, adults will make their own decisions. My purpose here is simply to make you aware of the options, dangers,

and possible side effects of recreational usage for diabetics during sexual activity.

There has been very little research on the effects of drugs with individuals who have diabetes. Many diabetics, despite the risks, will indulge in recreational drug use.

Like everything, moderation and awareness are the keys to long and healthy lives. Abstinence and just saying “No” is preferred but not very realistic.

Remember, drugs have a varied effect on different types of people and experiences may vary.

The most important considerations to observe while under the influence of any drug, is that you need to be aware and conscious that your body is still functioning properly.

You should always remember that if the bad times outweigh the good times (or the bad reactions outweigh the good reactions - whatever) **GIVE IT UP!**

Marijuana

What side effects could marijuana have on your condition?

According to my research, smoking in any way, shape or form is bad for diabetics & non-diabetics, It can cause everything from heart conditions to cancer, circulation problems, and lung difficulties. If you do smoke, exercise & take vitamins on a regular basis and try not to become addicted. It is particularly bad for older diabetics.

Regular smokers have loss of motivation.

Smoking dope sometimes makes you worry about your diabetic condition excessively — worrying unnecessarily can be bad for your state of mind. Being diabetic you should have sweets or food to combat sugar levels in any situation. You are still in complete control of your body functions while under the influence of Marijuana!

What precautions to take when anything goes awry (low blood sugar)?

Sweets are essential pocket material. Carry something sweet at all times. If you feel giddy or dizzy or feel a hypoglycemic episode come on DON'T PANIC, Have a piece of chocolate bar, or orange juice and you should feel fine in a few minutes.

If you get paranoid while having a smoke, go for a walk, or disappear for five minutes

while you straighten your head, you'll feel much better.

If you get a panic attack (heart beating at an alarmingly fast pace for no apparent reason), practice slow breathing techniques, you will feel better if you get into a rhythm.

It is advisable to have friends who know you are diabetic, around you.

Highs and lows of illicit drugs

Little known fact: Getting Stoned Is Far Safer for People With Diabetes Than Getting Drunk.

Depending on the drug in questions can slightly raise or lower blood glucose. Uppers, for example, such as cocaine, can raise blood glucose.

Although marijuana is not considered an upper, it increases blood glucose.

The potency of illegal substances varies widely because they are manufactured illicitly, without controls or standards.

Medical professionals emphasize that people with diabetes must always be sure to test blood glucose if they are going to be using an illicit drug.

Taking street drugs or marijuana can indirectly affect blood glucose levels because of the drugs' effect on the brain. For example, users might not recognize symptoms of low blood glucose (hypoglycemia) or might mistake such symptoms for the effects of the drug.

Marijuana might cause a user to eat more food, whereas cocaine use might result in a lowered appetite.

Ecstasy can produce seemingly boundless energy, although the user may not feel the need for rest or food. It is a situation that can lead to hypoglycemia.

Frequent cocaine use “triggers a dangerous series of events linked to risk of heart attack and stroke.” Cocaine constricts blood vessels and increases blood pressure-adding to the increased risk of heart attack and stroke that people with diabetes already face.

Test your blood glucose especially often if you are exercising or dancing. Drink with a friend or someone who knows about your diabetes and how to treat low blood glucose.

Molly

The drug called Molly isn't what most of its users think it is. If you Google "Molly," many articles say the drug is "pure" MDMA, the active ingredient in Ecstasy.

Users often talk about the "purity" of taking Molly, as if it's somehow better; after all, MDMA was originally developed as a medication to treat depression. But today's Molly is most often not MDMA -- in the last few years, the drug has become a toxic mixture of lab-created chemicals, according to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration

Here are some things everyone should know about this rapidly changing party drug:

Anybody who buys or takes Molly now is probably ingesting dangerous synthetic

drugs that have not been tested and are produced in widely varying strengths.

They can also cause a rapid heartbeat, high blood pressure, blood vessel constriction and sweating, and can prevent the body from regulating temperature. Some of the chemicals have been reported to cause intense, prolonged panic attacks, psychosis and seizures.

After they wear off, the chemicals can cause devastating depression. Several of these compounds have caused deaths.

Molly is dangerous because of the toxic mix of unknown chemicals.

Hallucinogens

I am not condoning the use of drugs under any circumstance but we deal with the reality of life and keeping you healthy so I offer the following advice that If you must indulge, take acid only when in high spirits. This has a lot to do with whether or not you get a 'bad' trip.

Disturbed sleep patterns can result.

Regular use of Acid can also cause future 'flashbacks'.

It is not advisable for diabetics to indulge too often; sometimes insulin intake may be forgotten about or ignored - not a good situation. Anytime you travel It is not advisable to trip regularly anyway too much LSD can trigger mental health problem.

For diabetics who take acid, and tend to omit their insulin intake for the trip, my advice: DON'T! You should carry an extra candy bar when you travel by any means. Take your insulin (maybe a few less units), eat a healthy meal, and carry sweets/sugar/coke throughout the trip.

While you are tripping you generally lose your appetite; a good idea is to drink sugar filled drink, such as any brand name cola, to keep your sugars up.

It is better to have short term high blood sugar than low blood sugar, and a lot less stressful.

If you get a panic attack (heart beating at an alarmingly fast pace for no apparent reason), practice slow breathing techniques, you will feel better if you get into a rhythm.

It is advisable to have friends around you that know and trust, and you should always tell them that you are diabetic in case of any problems.

Ecstasy

The main effect of ecstasy is that it produces seemingly boundless energy, which makes users feel alert and alive. Music and colors seem more intense. For people with diabetes, this is particularly concerning. Being unaware of whether you need a rest or not can result in hypoglycemia or low blood sugar, especially if the drug is taken whilst dancing.

In addition, those who have diabetes and take ecstasy may make the mistake of omitting their insulin intake, which can lead to severe dehydration and exhaustion, if combined with dancing or raving.

Ecstasy will initially come on strong.

Peak = 1/2 hour - Whole trip = 4 hours

You may feel nausea or dizziness, and possibly vomit, however these feelings wear off after a while.

Once the initial 'rush' phase has worn off, you are left with a feeling of warmth and 'openness'.

You may also feel more energetic, and prone to bursts of mad dancing (especially in a club environment), and repetitive movements.

Some ecstasy pills can feel like mild 'LSD' trip, other can have a more amphetamine effect.

Possible side effects:

Ecstasy is an appetite suppressant and a mild stimulant. Sleep patterns are disturbed.

Common scenario = insulin omission + exercise (rave) + ecstasy leading to severe dehydration, exhaustion, hyperthermia and ketoacidosis.

For some diabetics who take 'E' that omit their insulin intake for the experience, my advice: DON'T! Take your insulin (maybe a few less units) eat a healthy meal, and carry sweets/sugar/coke throughout the trip. While you are tripping you generally lose your appetite, a good idea is to drink sugar filled drinks, to keep your sugars up.

It is better to have short term high blood sugar than low blood sugar, and a lot less stressful.

Cocaine

Using cocaine will give you a general feeling of well-being, and possibly false confidence.

It gives energy and 'keeps you awake' in party situations.

One side effect could have on your condition includes disturbed sleep patterns.

Sleep patterns can be disturbed.

It is not excessive for diabetics to take cocaine; sometimes insulin intake may be forgotten about or ignored.

Cocaine and especially crack cocaine is highly addictive. Users can become psychologically and physically addicted very quickly. This is not a good situation

for insulin dependent diabetics who rely on 'control' as much as possible.

You generally lose your appetite; a good idea is to eat/drink fruit drinks to keep your sugars up.

It is better to have short term high blood sugar than low blood sugar, and it is a lot less stressful.

Fisting

Arguably, is another part of the BDSM community with special needs and concerns. In this case I am only focusing on the diabetic angle. It concerns the popular lubricant J-Lube.

J-Lube does not contain any alcohol. The ingredients according to the manufacturer are 25% polyethylene polymer and **75%**

dispersing agent (sucrose, according to the MSDS).

A Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) is a document that gives detailed information about the nature of a chemical, such as physical and chemical properties, health, safety, fire, and environmental hazards of a chemical product.

These are the facts as I've researched them. Any additional comments you wish to add, Please contact me through my web site.

Stay healthy and Be Aware!
Cain Berlinger

Special Thanks to:

Wes Morrison

Thomas A. Weller

Tug Taylor

For some more information on diabetics visit these websites:

<http://groups-beta.google.com/group/diabetesbdsm?hl=en>

<http://www.diabetes.org/home.jsp>

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New York, NY 10016
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Cain Berlinger
150 Main Street
New York NY 10044