

DIABETIC EMERGENCIES

Diabetic Coma (Hyperglycemia)

Insulin Shock (Hypoglycemia)

Causes

- *Has not taken Insulin
- *Has overeaten
- *Has some sort of stress, infection or illness

- *Has taken too much Insulin
- *Has not eaten enough
- *Has over exercised
- *Has vomited a meal

Signs & Symptoms

- *Air hunger-rapid and deep respirations
- *Dehydration – dry, red, warm skin, sunken eyes
- *A sweet or fruity breath
- *A rapid, weak (“thready”) pulse
- *Normal or slight low Blood Pressure
- *Varying degrees of unresponsiveness
- *Onset-gradual over a period of days

- *Normal or rapid respirations
- *Pale, moist skin (“clammy”), sweating
- *Normal Breath
- *A full rapid pulse
- *Fainting, seizure, or coma
- *Onset-within minutes
- *Dizziness, headache
- *Aggressive or unusual behavior
- *Hunger

Emergency Care Treatment by the EMT-B

- *Do the ABC’s
- *Ask the patient “Have you taken your insulin today”
- *Ask the patient “Have you eaten today”
- *Administer Oxygen
- *Immediately transport to a medical facility

- *Do the ABC’s
- *Ask the patient “Have you taken your insulin today”
- *Ask the patient “Have you eaten today”
- *Administer Oxygen
- *Give SUGAR to the CONSCIOUS patient
- *Transport to a medical facility

When in doubt if patient is in Diabetic Coma or Insulin Shock GIVE SUGAR