**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