

Depression, Distress and Diabetes

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Significance of Depression in Diabetes

- Less self-care (inactivity, smoking, etc.)
- Glucose disregulation
- Obesity
- Major predictor of poor outcomes (functional limitations, morbidity, mortality, health care utilization)
- Effect of depression is exacerbated in diabetes

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Depression is Associated with Non-Adherence to Diabetes Self-Care: Meta-Analysis

	n	z (P)	Weighted r	95% CI
Overall analysis	47	9.81 (<0.001)	0.21	0.17 – 0.25
Appointment keeping	4	21.58 (<0.001)	0.31	0.29 – 0.34
Composite measures	18	9.66 (<0.001)	0.29	0.23 – 0.34
Diet	18	7.60 (<0.001)	0.18	0.13 – 0.22
Medication	18	5.15 (<0.001)	0.14	0.09 – 0.20
Exercise	13	7.89 (<0.001)	0.14	0.10 – 0.17
Glucose monitoring	15	3.50 (<0.001)	0.10	0.04 – 0.16
Foot care	2	0.88 (0.380)	0.07	-0.08 to 0.21

Conzelmann et al. Diabetes Care 2008

Depression is Associated with Hyperglycaemia

Effect size from meta-analysis

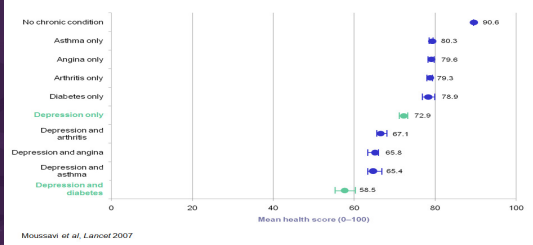
(n = number of studies)
Lustman et al. Diabetes Care 2000

Depression is Associated with Diabetes Complications

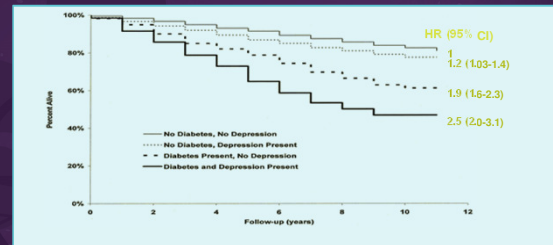
Weighted effect size r

de Groot et al. Psychosom Med 2002

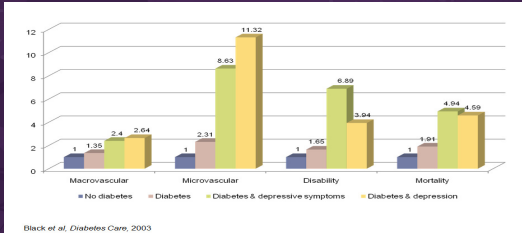
Depression-Diabetes Co-Morbidity is Associated with Worst Health



Depression and Diabetes Co-Morbidity is Associated with Mortality



Even Subclinical Depression Increases Complications, Disability and Mortality



Diabetes-related Distress

- DRD is not depression, but is associated with having symptoms of depression
 - DRD is a direct reflection of the burden of diabetes, the subjective experience of that burden
 - DRD can impair self-care and is more strongly associated with diabetes outcomes than is depression
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Diagnosed Depression vs Depression Symptoms and Diabetes-specific Distress

- Type 2 DM patients assessed for major depressive disorder (MDD), self-report depressive symptoms, and diabetes-specific distress
 - 70% of patients with elevated depressive symptoms did not meet criteria for MDD and 34% of MDD patients did not report increases in depressive symptoms
 - Elevated depressive symptoms (generalized distress) more reflective of diabetes-related distress than of MDD
 - Elevated levels of depressive symptoms and not MDD were significantly associated with biological (HbA1c) and behavioural (diet; exercise) health indicators
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- Hunter et al. Diabetes Care 2007

Prevalence of Depression in Diabetes

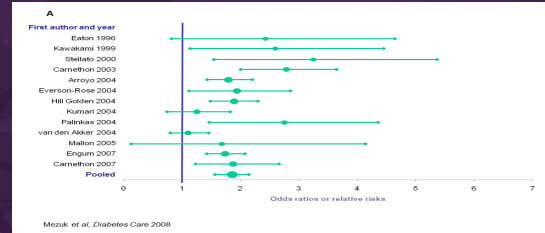
- US estimates of prevalence are 15-40% (2-8 times the general population)
 - The wide range in estimates is a result of methodological differences in studies
 - Consistent finding of higher rates in diabetes
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Diabetes & Depression: Chicken or Egg?

- Does diabetes cause depression or does depression cause diabetes?
- Evidence for both causal mechanisms
 - Burden of diabetes is stressful/distressing
 - Depression increases risk for diabetes (even when controlling for behavior, weight)
- Some have suggested depression is another element of the metabolic syndrome

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Baseline Depression Predicts Incident Type 2 Diabetes



Depression and Diabetes Risk

- Seminal studies done at Johns Hopkins
 - Eaton et al identified phenomenon
 - Golden et al found depression a predictor of diabetes but effect mediated by lifestyle factors
- Rubin, Peyrot et al studied association between depression and diabetes risk in the Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP)

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Assessing Depression in DPP

- Disabling depression or high ADM use = exclusion
- No depression diagnosis available
- Beck Depression Inventory (BDI) assessed every 6 months
- Anti-depression medication (ADM) assessed each year (medication review)
- More ADM than high BDI (low elevation of BDI used in analyses), little overlap in markers

(Diabetes Care 2008;31:420–426)

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Depression as a Risk Factor

- Elevated BDI scores at baseline or during the study were not associated with diabetes risk in any arm
- Baseline ADM use was associated with diabetes risk in the Placebo and Intensive Lifestyle arms
- ADM use during the study (compared with no use) was also associated with diabetes risk in the Placebo and Intensive Lifestyle arms
- The association persisted when controlling for weight level/gain

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Possible Interpretations

- Antidepressant use could simply be a marker for the actual cause(s) of increased diabetes risk, which may be more severe, chronic, or recurrent depression
- Antidepressant medication may have diabetogenic physiological effects

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Biomedical Perspectives

- Depression may be part of a metabolic syndrome that includes diabetes and CVD
 - Result of stress hormones and/or inflammation
- Depression may be a psychological complication of diabetes and/or complications of diabetes
- If the former, depression in undiagnosed and diagnosed diabetes would be equally high

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Meta-analysis Findings

(Diabetes Care 2011;34:752-762)

- Risk for depression not increased in impaired (IGM) vs normal (NGM) glucose metabolism
- Risk for depression did not differ between individuals with undiagnosed DM and individuals with either NGM or IGM
- Risk of depression was significantly lower for individuals with IGM or undiagnosed DM relative to those with diagnosed DM

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Implications

- Depression does not seem to be a result of metabolic dysfunction, b/c it is not elevated in those with undiagnosed diabetes or IGM relative to those with normal glucose
- Depression is elevated in those with diagnosed diabetes relative to those with undiagnosed diabetes or IGM, suggesting that it is due to increased psychosocial burden of illness

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Risks of High Depression Symptomatology

Category	Odds Ratio (95%CI)
Female (vs. male)	2.29 (1.58-3.87)
Not married (vs married)	1.55 (1.07-2.25)
Education = High school*	1.90 (1.23-2.92)
Education < High school*	2.64 (1.52-4.57)
Complications = 3-4**	1.90 (1.10-3.28)
Complications = 5-9**	3.29 (1.62-6.66)

* Compared to Education > High school
 ** Compared to Complications = 0-2 (9 possible)
 M. Peyrot and R. Rubin, *Diabetes Care*, 20, 1997

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Rates of High Depression Symptomatology

Probabilities for risk categories:
 If no risk factors, synthetic probability = 5%
 Actual probability for lowest risk case = 10%

 If all risk factors, synthetic probability = 92%
 Actual probability for highest risk case = 81%

M. Peyrot and R. Rubin, *Diabetes Care*, 20, 1997

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Psychological Correlates of Depression

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| <u>Diabetes-Specific</u> | <u>Generic</u> |
| • Fantasy coping (+) | • Anger coping (+) |
| • Tx self-efficacy (-) | • Self-esteem (-) |
| • Illness burden (?) | • Stress (+) |

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Mediated Relationships

- Age mediated by: spouse (+), complications (+), anger (-), global & diabetes efficacy (-), stress (-)
- Gender (female) mediated by: spouse (-), education (-), complications (-), global & diabetes efficacy (-), stress (+)
- Education mediated by: fantasy (-), global & diabetes efficacy (+)
- Complications mediated by: anger (+), fantasy (+), global & diabetes efficacy (-), stress (+)

Direction of relationship in parentheses

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Synergistic Relationships

- Interactions with gender
 - Global efficacy stronger for men (-)
 - Diabetes efficacy stronger for women (-)
 - Fantasy coping stronger for women (+)
- Interactions significant for men only
 - Stress X Anger (+)
 - Stress X Diabetes efficacy (-)
 - Complications X Fantasy (+)
 - Complications X Diabetes efficacy (+)

Direction of relationship in parentheses

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Persistence of Depression

- 42% of participants in diabetes education were depressed at start of 5-day program
- 13% were depressed when program started, and ended, and 6 months later
 - If depressed only at pre or post program (not both), 36% were depressed at 6 months
 - If depressed at both pre and post program, 73% were depressed at 6 months

M. Peyrot and R. Rubin, *Diabetes Care*, 22, 1999

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Distress and Psychiatric Dx

- If possible, start with interventions that can be implemented during regular visits before considering more intensive interventions which may require referral to a behavioral/psychosocial specialist
- If symptoms are too severe, the provider should move directly to referral to or consultation with a specialist

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Action Steps for Treating Distress and Psychiatric Dx

1. Identify patients who are suffering from diabetes-related distress
2. Apply effective treatments to relieve diabetes-related distress
3. Identify patients who are suffering from psychiatric disorders
4. Refer patients for specialized mental health care when appropriate

Peyrot et al, *Diabetes Care* 2007

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Identifying Diabetes Distress

- If patient is unwilling or unable to engage in active self-management despite recognizing a need for change
- Distressed patients can be identified by asking them questions designed to assess specific sources of distress as well as the intensity of this distress:
 - Are you having trouble accepting your diabetes?
 - Do you feel overwhelmed or burned out by the demands of diabetes management?
 - Do you get the support you need from your family for diabetes management?

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Alleviating Diabetes Distress

- Strategies
 - Enhance diabetes-specific self-efficacy
 - Encourage realistic expectations
 - Enhance motivation
- Techniques
 - Psycho-educational (coping skills training)
 - Motivational Interviewing

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Under-Diagnosis of Depression in Diabetes

- Depression is recognized in only about one-third of cases where it exists
- Under-diagnosis reflects the assumption that depression is secondary to diabetes (not independently important)
- Under-diagnosis is a result of lack of training and time for diagnosis and treatment **AADE15**

Identifying Clinical Depression

- Patients likely to be clinically depressed can be identified by asking two questions about the DSM-IV cardinal diagnostic criteria:
 - “During the past 2 weeks, have you felt down, depressed, or hopeless?” and
 - “During the past 2 weeks, have you lost interest or pleasure in doing things?”
- Positive responses to one or both questions should trigger questions about the remaining 7 DSM-IV symptoms. **AADE15**

Secondary Criteria for Diagnosis

- Insomnia or hypersomnia
- Psychomotor agitation or retardation
- Fatigue
- Significant weight loss or gain
- Feeling worthless or guilty
- Difficulty concentrating or making decisions
- Recurrent thoughts of death or suicide **AADE15**

Symptom Characteristics

- Symptoms present most of day
- Symptoms present for ≥ 2 weeks
- Symptoms cause distress, impairment
- Symptoms not attributable to medications, medical condition, bereavement

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Screening Tools

- Center for Epidemiological Studies Depression Scale (CESD)
- Beck Depression Inventory (BDI)
- Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9)
- Tools for screening, not diagnosis
- Re-screen (2-4 weeks) if above cut-off (but if suicidal treat or refer immediately)
- Treat or refer if above cut-off twice **AADE15**

Signs of Depression in Medical History

- Medical history of depression, anxiety disorder, substance abuse, mental health treatment
- Family history of depression
- Persistent focus on somatic complaints, especially pain, without organic basis
- Sexual dysfunction

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Treating Psychiatric Disorders

- Medication and behavioral therapy can be effective, separately or combined
- Counseling (eg, CBT, CST) is indicated for treatment of psychiatric disorders in diabetes, even if medication is used
- Some disorders (anorexia, substance abuse, depression with suicidal ideation) may require residential treatment

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Pharmacological Therapy for Depression in Diabetes

- Tricyclics are effective
- SSRIs are effective
- Side-effects of antidepressant medications

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Behavioral Therapy for Depression in Diabetes

- Cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) is effective
- Psycho-educational treatment (CST) may be effective, especially if
 - Depression is diabetes-driven
 - Depression is subclinical

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Effects of Depression Treatment in Diabetes

- Remission of depression may be associated with improved glycemic control
- Behavioral therapy is more likely to result in improved glycemic control
- But improved glycemic control is not sufficient for depression remission

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RCTs Show Effects of Depression Treatment on Mood and Glycemia

Reference	n	Interventions	Intervention superior to control group?	
			Psychological Outcome	Medical Outcome
Pharmacological treatments (4 RCTs, n=289)				
Lutman, 1997	28	Nortriptyline vs placebo	Yes	No
Lutman, 2000	60	Fluoxetine vs Placebo	Yes	No
Lutman, 2004	152	Sertraline vs placebo	Yes	No
Palla-Hyvarinen, 2007	49	Paroxetine vs placebo	No	No
Psychological treatments (4 RCTs, n=100)				
Lutman, 1998	51	CBT-education vs education	Yes	Yes
Huang, 2001	59	Group counseling vs usual	Yes	Yes
Simon, 2008	30	Supportive psychotherapy vs usual	Yes	No
Other treatments (4 RCTs, n=924)				
Williams, 2004	417	Depression management vs usual	Yes	No
Katon, 2004	329	Algorithm-based vs usual	Yes	No
Sisula, 2008	85	Psychiatric vs usual	Yes	No
Begor, 2007	123	Algorithm-based vs usual	not specified	Yes

Datsek & Harpaz, Curr Op Psych 2009

Realistic Treatment Goals

- Depression (best-studied condition) generally is not curable in patients with diabetes
 - Less than 10% who achieve remission remain depression-free for 5 years
 - Episodes occur about once a year for lifetime
 - Episodes are longer, more severe in diabetes

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Diabetes and Distress/Depression: Summary

- Potentially devastating combination, even if diabetes control is good
- High prevalence
- Often not diagnosed
- Easily detectable with simple screening tools
- Depression requires specific anti-depressant therapy

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Diabetes and Distress/Depression: Conclusions

- Routinely screen for distress among people with diabetes
- Counsel all patients with diabetes-related distress
- Treat or refer all patients with depression

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Diabetes and Distress/Depression: Implications

- Providers should enhance their skills for detecting distress/depression in their patients
- Providers should enhance their skills for treating distress/depression in their patients
- Providers should develop a referral network including specialists in the diagnosis and treatment of depression in patients with diabetes

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Putting it into Practice

- What would you like to change about your strategies for dealing with distress/depression?
- What has worked for you in the past?
- What is your plan?
- How will you know you are successful?
- How will you reward yourself?

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