

Clinical history

- . polyuria
- . polydipsia
- . weight loss
- . vomiting
- . abdominal pain
- . confusion

Clinical signs

- . dehydration and/or hemodynamic instability
- . deep sighing respiration
- . ketotic breath

Biochemical investigation

- . ketones in urine or capillary blood
- . blood glucose
- . blood gases and electrolytes
- . investigate infection if indicated

DKA confirmed

- . Hyperglycemia (blood glucose > 200mg/dl)
- . Venous pH < 7.3 or bicarbonate < 15 mmol/L
- . Ketonemia and/ or ketonuria.

Shock

- . Secure Airway ± NG tube
- . Breathing: give O₂
- . Circulation: 0.9% saline solution 10-20ml/kg over 1-2h. (repeat until circulation restored but not exceeding 30ml/kg)

Dehydration >5% Acidotic Vomiting

- . Calculate fluid requirement to be corrected over 48hours
- . 0.9% saline solution
- . ECG for abnormal T waves
- . start potassium replacement now only if patient hypokalemic

Minimal dehydration Oral fluids tolerated

- . Start SC insulin and oral hydration

- . No improvement

.After initial hydration:

- . **Start insulin therapy**
 - Continuous IV regular insulin (0.1U/kg/hour)
- . **Start potassium replacement** IF diuresis present and initial K < 6.5mEq/L, 20-40 mEq/L of potassium in the hydration fluid, at a maximum rate of 0.5 mEq/kg/hour
- . **Monitor:**
 - blood glucose hourly
 - fluids input and output hourly
 - neurologic status at least hourly
 - ketonuria
 - electrolytes and blood gases every 2 hours

- . No improvement

- . Reassess:
 - fluid replacement
 - insulin dose and infusion
 - consider sepsis

- . Add 5% glucose to 0.9% saline solution (1:1) when blood glucose < 200mg/dl or blood glucose fall more than 100mg/dl/hour
- . Adjust sodium infusion to promote an increase in measured serum sodium

- . Improvement (clinically well, tolerating oral fluids)

Transition to SC insulin

- replace IV regular insulin by intermittent subcutaneous regular insulin administration, initiated 1-2 hours before interrupting the IV regular insulin infusion

- Neurologic deterioration (headache, irritability, increased drowsiness, urine incontinence, specific neurological signs and slowing heart rate)

- . Cerebral edema suspicion (exclude hypoglycemia)

- Start treatment:
 - . mannitol 0.5-1g/kg IV, in 20 minutes, repeated if no response within 30 minutes and 2 hours;
 - . reduce fluid infusion by 1/3
 - . elevate head of the bed
 - . move to ICU
 - . cranial image AFTER patient stabilised