

4 VOCES EN 10 MINUTOS: Particularidades en el tratamiento de la diabetes mellitus tipo 1 en pediatría

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Insulinización en preescolar

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Los niños preescolares con diabetes mellitus tipo 1 (DM1) constituyen un grupo vulnerable que requiere un seguimiento especializado. Los primeros 5 años de vida son críticos en el desarrollo cerebral y neurocognitivo; la evidencia señala que los extremos glucémicos (hiperglucemia crónica e hipoglucemia severa) y la variabilidad glucémica son deletéreos durante este período, causando alteraciones estructurales y funcionales a nivel cerebral. Alcanzar los objetivos de control glucémico precozmente en la evolución es un desafío, ya que un gran porcentaje de estos niños presentan formas graves de inicio (CAD) y la insulinización requiere ajustes de dosis con dispositivos adaptados a su tamaño corporal.

Existe evidencia de que los niños que inician su DM a edades tempranas presentan mayor mortalidad y riesgo cardiovascular, lo que ocasiona la pérdida de 15 años de vida en promedio. Implementar terapias intensificadas que permitan lograr objetivos lo antes posible disminuye riesgo de complicaciones micro y macrovasculares, y también se relaciona con un mejor control glucémico a largo plazo.

Para el cuidado de estos niños es fundamental tener un plan de educación estructurado con pautas claras que orienten a las familias en las prioridades del tratamiento y en la importancia del logro de los objetivos precozmente. Es fundamental consensuar cuáles son los objetivos y la relevancia que presentan para que el niño crezca sano y logre alcanzar su potencial. Con la incorporación de la tecnología (monitoreo glucémico continuo [MGC], bombas de infusión, y sistemas integrados y automatizados) se ha observado en diferentes registros la mejoría del control glucémico con descenso de la HbA1c sin aumentar la incidencia de hipoglucemia severa en este grupo etario, sin embargo, estudios recientes muestran que menos de la mitad de los niños logra una HbA1c <7%.

Los niños preescolares presentan particularidades que es necesario tomar en cuenta al implementar la insulinoterapia, en general su apetito es irregular y son selectivos, lo que dificulta la insulinización prandial. Además, tienen mayor variabilidad en sus requerimientos de insulina y necesitan ajustes especiales. El ejercicio en general es espontáneo y frecuentemente sufren intercurrencias infecciosas que impactan en su perfil glucémico. Por lo tanto, contar con recursos tecnológicos como el MCG y la infusión automatizada de insulina, que facilitan la flexibilidad y el ajuste más dinámico de su tratamiento, son herramientas muy valiosas que deberían estar disponibles para todos los niños con DM1.

Palabras clave: insulinización; preescolar.

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4 VOICES IN 10 MINUTES: Particularities in the treatment of type 1 diabetes mellitus in pediatrics

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Insulinization in preschoolers

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Preschoolers with type 1 diabetes constitute a vulnerable group in need of specialized health care. The first 5 years of life are crucial for optimal neurodevelopment. The human brain undergoes unique dynamic structural and functional changes during childhood and requires continuous and stable delivery of glucose for brain function and growth. Exposure to chronic hyperglycemia, hypoglycemia and glycemic variability compromises key neurodevelopmental processes in children with early-onset type 1 diabetes, generally defined as an onset prior to ages 4–7, leading structural and functional alterations in the growing brain. Reaching glycemic targets early in the evolution of the disease is challenging, most of preschoolers start with severe forms (DKA) and insulin treatment is complex and requires fine dose adjustments with particular devices adapted to their body size. Optimizing glycemia is important in preschool age children diagnosed with T1D due to their higher risk of diabetes complications and premature death than persons diagnosed with diabetes later in life.

There is also evidence that hyperglycemia during childhood raises the risk of long-term complications even if substantial improvement is achieved later during young adulthood. It is important that the diabetes team and family share the same glycemic targets; hence they should be set and evaluated together with the family to guide the treatment. From the onset, it is important for the entire diabetes team to communicate that near normoglycemia is achievable and it's important for the child's future. This knowledge about diabetes care needs an structured and clear education plan that the family and other care givers understand and prioritize. The introduction of diabetes technology (CGM, pumps and integrated and automatized devices) enhances glycemic control in this population avoiding an increase on the rate of severe hypoglycemia, however recent studies show that less than half of the children achieve glycemic targets.

Preschoolers present some particular issues that need to be considered at the time of implementing insulin therapy. Generally, their appetite is irregular and they are quite selective, which complicates prandial insulinization. Also, they have wider fluctuations in their insulin requirements, for which they need specific adjustments. Exercise is usually spontaneous, and frequently they experience infectious complications that impact their glycemic profile. Therefore, having technological resources such as continuous glucose monitoring and automated insulin infusion, which facilitate flexibility and more dynamic adjustments to their treatment, are very valuable tools and should be available to all children with type 1 diabetes (T1D).

Key words: insulinization; preschoolers.