

# Increasing shift from islet antibody positivity to diabetes

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(HealthDay) -- There is an increase in both the prevalence and levels of islet antigen-2 and zinc transporter 8, as well as in autoantibodies, in newly diagnosed type 1 diabetes patients during a period of rising disease incidence, according to a study published in the March issue of *Diabetes*.

Anna E. Long, of the University of Bristol in the United Kingdom, and colleagues analyzed autoantibodies to insulin (IAA), [glutamic acid decarboxylase](#) (GADA), islet antigen-2 (IA-2A), and zinc transporter 8 (ZnT8A) by measurement with radioimmunoassay of sera collected from children and young adults with newly diagnosed [type 1 diabetes](#) between 1985 and 2002.

The researchers found that the prevalence of IA-2A and ZnT8A increased significantly over the period studied. This finding was accompanied by raised levels of IA-2A, ZnT8A, and IA-2 $\beta$  autoantibodies (IA-2 $\beta$ A). No changes were observed in IAA or GADA prevalence and levels.

"Increases in IA-2A, ZnT8A, and IA-2 $\beta$ A at diagnosis during a period of rising incidence suggest that the process leading to type 1 diabetes is now characterized by a more intense humoral autoimmune response," the authors write.

**More information:** [Abstract](#)  
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