

Characteristics of diabetes in infancy explored

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(HealthDay)—Diabetes in infancy has different characteristics

depending on mutation subtype, and is associated with high frequency of diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA), according to a report published online Aug. 4 in *Diabetes Care*.

Lisa R. Letourneau, M.P.H., R.D., from the University of Chicago, and colleagues examined [diagnosis](#) records from 88 cases with diabetes onset ≤ 13 months of age. The authors assessed laboratory values and sign/symptoms, and subdivided participants by similar mutation subtypes among those with a causal mutation for diabetes.

The researchers found that the most common form of infancy-onset diabetes was *KCNJ11*-related diabetes (37.5 percent), followed by "unknown" (likely type 1 diabetes; 21.6 percent); transient neonatal diabetes occurred in 14 percent. The median age at diagnosis of diabetes was 10.4 weeks; age at diagnosis differed significantly by mutation subtype. Diagnosis age was significantly lower in the transient diabetes group versus the permanent group (median, 15.2 versus 0.43 weeks). Polyuria, tachypnea, flu-like symptoms, tiredness/weakness, dehydration, and "not acting right" were the most commonly reported signs/symptoms. Blood glucose, pH, bicarbonate, hemoglobin A1c, and DKA were dependent on the subtype of mutation. The frequency of DKA was 66.2 percent overall, and increasing age at diagnosis correlated with increased odds of DKA (odds ratio, 1.23 per one month increase).

"Continuing to educate pediatric providers about the many ways that infants can present with [diabetes](#) may help to diagnose cases more efficiently and ultimately decrease the frequency of DKA at diagnosis," the authors write.

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More information: [Abstract/Full Text](#)

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