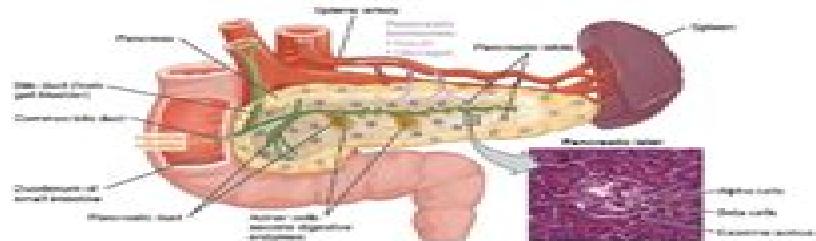


# Endocrine System

## Pancreas

**Pathophysiology:** an organ in the body containing alpha and beta cells that produce both endocrine and exocrine function

- **Alpha cells:** secretes glucagon
- **Beta cells:** secrete insulin
- **Endocrine function:** hormones assist body with metabolism
- **Exocrine function:** secretion of enzymes to help assist with food digestion



## Diabetes

### Pathophysiology:

- DM 1: there is insufficient insulin
- DM 2: there is insulin resistance

### Causes:

- DM 1
  - Past viral infection
  - Genetic predisposition
- DM 2
  - Poor lifestyle choices

### Polyuria & Polydipsia

- The blood is thick, making it hard for the heart to supply blood and O<sub>2</sub> to the body. The body tries to thin the blood by pulling excess H<sub>2</sub>O, causing an increase in urine and thirst.



### Diabetic Sick Day Rules

- Monitor blood glucose every 4 hours
- Test urine for ketones (>240 mg/dL)
- Continue to take medications unless a provider says otherwise
- Increase fluid intake to prevent dehydration
- Eat meals at regular times

### Risk Factors

- Hypertension (damages the blood vessels)

### Signs & Symptoms:

- Increased urine
- Increased hunger
- Increased thirst
- Increased fatigue
- Blurred vision (early onset) that can lead to chronic complications
- Pins/needles feeling in the feet
- Unexplained weight loss (DM1)

### Prevention

- Glucose control
- Diet
- Exercise
- Medications
- Urine testing for ketones

### REFER TO DM1 & DM2 CARE PLAN FOR DETAILS

### Why is it important?

- Poor diabetic control can lead to heart and vessel damage, kidney failure, and nerve damage.

### CALL DOCTOR IF:

- Persistent N/V/D
- Moderate to high ketones
- Blood sugar >250 and not responding to insulin
- Illness longer than 2 days
- Fever 101.5 or higher for more than 24 hours

# Endocrine System Study Guide Nurses

**Gail Ropelewski-Ryan**

## **Endocrine System Study Guide Nurses:**

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