



(REVIEW ARTICLE)



## Diabetes mellitus and anti-oxidative stress

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### Abstract

The development of diabetes complications, both microvascular and cardiovascular, is significantly influenced by oxidative stress. Diabetes-related metabolic problems lead to an overproduction of mitochondrial superoxide in the heart, small and large vascular endothelial cells, and both. Five key pathways implicated in the pathophysiology of problems are activated as a result of the increased superoxide generation. The purpose of this review is to highlight new insights into the processes through which hyperglycemia produces oxygen free radicals.

**Keywords:** Diabetes mellitus; Insulin deficiency; Antioxidative stress; Hyperglycaemia

### 1. Introduction

Diabetes mellitus (DM) is a diverse metabolic condition characterized by hyperglycaemia caused by inadequate insulin production, insulin resistance, or both (1). Type 1 diabetes is caused by an autoimmune-mediated death of pancreatic -cells, which results in insulin insufficiency. Patients must be given insulin to live. Insulin resistance and relative, rather than total, insulin insufficiency characterizes type 2 diabetes. Obese people are more likely to develop type 2 diabetes, which is related to hypertension and dyslipidaemia. Nutrients' ability to increase insulin production from pancreatic-cells reflects their ability to boost oxidative fluxes in islet cells (2). Furthermore, oxidative stress, which is linked to insulin resistance and non-insulin-dependent diabetes (3,4), contributes to impaired insulin action (5-7). Thus, the treatment tries to decrease insulin resistance (through diet, exercise, and pharmacological therapy) while increasing insulin secretion. In diabetes, oxidative stress appears to be caused primarily by an increase in free radical generation and/or a rapid decrease in antioxidant defences (8-14). Free radicals produced from oxygen have been linked to the pathogenesis of several diseases, including diabetes mellitus (13). The primary radical produced by the reduction of molecular oxygen is generally acknowledged to be the superoxide anion, which can give birth to secondary radicals or reactive oxygen species (ROS) such as hydrogen peroxide and hydroxyl radical (15,16). Furthermore, Jang et al. (17) discovered that elevated oxidative stress has been implicated in the development and progression of diabetic tissue damage. Diabetes, on the other hand, appears to alter the activity of antioxidant enzymes in a variety of tissues (9). Diabetes mellitus is characterized by a rise in glycoxidation products, which is associated with advanced oxidative stress (18). Higher concentrations of glucose or glycated protein promote lipid peroxidation (19), and lipid peroxides may increase the number of advanced glycation end-products (20).

Free radicals produced during the autoxidation of glucose were assumed to be the cause of oxidative stress in diabetes mellitus (21). Most recently, evidence was presented for the accumulation of oxidation products before the onset of diabetes (23), and increased levels of ROS in type 2 DM were implicated in contributing to a hypercoagulable condition

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(22). Hyperglycaemia (24) and hyperinsulinemia (25) are the main contributors to increased free radical generation. Consequently, the following will discuss the multiple mechanisms of ROS against DM.

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## 2. Mechanisms of oxygen free radicals' production by hyperglycaemia:

Hyperglycaemia is a widely known cause of enhanced plasma free radical concentrations (24). Increased glycolysis (26), intercellular activation of the sorbitol (polyol) pathway (27), autooxidation of glucose (28), and non-enzymatic protein glycation (29) are the four main ways that hyperglycaemia can produce free radicals.

Increased glucose metabolism to lactate is associated with an increase in NADH/NAD<sup>+</sup> ratio (27). Under this condition of markedly accelerated glycolysis, oxidation of glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate (GAP) to 1,3-biphosphoglycerate (1,3-DPG) by glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase appears to become the rate-limiting step in glycolysis (30), this reaction is coupled to the reduction of NAD<sup>+</sup> to NADH. In the cytosol, NADH is oxidized to NAD<sup>+</sup> by lactate dehydrogenase (LDH), coupled with a reduction of pyruvate to lactate. Thus, the increase in the ratio of NADH/NAD<sup>+</sup> will reflect an increased lactate/pyruvate ratio (27). A mismatch between the rate of oxidation of GAP to 1,3-DPG and the rate of reduction of pyruvate appears to be the mechanism by which a higher rate of glycolysis raises free cytosolic NADH / NAD<sup>+</sup> ratio (redox imbalance) (30). This finding suggests that poor oxidation of NADH to NAD<sup>+</sup> results in a higher NADH/NAD<sup>+</sup> ratio, which is strongly related to increased glycolysis as a result of hyperglycaemia.

Macromolecules' oxidative modification (including lipoproteins and proteins) Nonradical oxidants like hydrogen peroxide, hypochlorous acid, or singlet oxygen, as well as radical oxygen species like superoxide anion and hydroxyl radicals, can cause oxidative damage to physiologically significant macromolecules.

Lipid peroxides are produced when these oxidants attack the double bonds in unsaturated fatty acids. The instability of the peroxidation products and the difficulty of the tests, however, make lipid peroxidation study difficult. Oxygen radicals, particularly the very aggressive hydroxyl radical, can also oxidize apolipoproteins and other plasma proteins, the products of which are much more stable than lipid peroxides. The decrease in the concentration of total proteins in the serum of diabetic rats can be attributed to 1) decreased amino acid uptake (31), 2) greatly decreased concentration of a variety of essential amino acids (32), 3) increased glycolytic amino acid conversion rate to CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O (33) and 4) reduction in protein synthesis secondary to a decrease in the amount and availability of mRNA. Furthermore, Wanke and Wong attributed the decrease in albumin concentration in experimental diabetes to the presence of inhibitor(s) of albumin promoter activity in the liver.

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## 3. Conclusion

Numerous studies have shown that oxidative stress plays a significant role in the development of diabetes, including the impairment of insulin action and the elevation of the risk of complications. Antioxidants have already demonstrated promise in the management of both type 1 and type 2 diabetes. Increased oxygen and nitrogen free radical levels (ROS/RNS) have been associated with lipid peroxidation, non-enzymatic protein glycation, and glucose oxidation, all of which are factors in diabetes mellitus and its consequences. The majority of research have demonstrated a link between oxidative stress and diabetes, as well as its heart, liver, kidney, and eye consequences. Therefore, it appears that oxidative stress is particularly concerning in metabolic disorders, especially diabetes type 2.

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## Compliance with ethical standards

### *Disclosure of conflict of interest*

There is no conflict of interest.

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