Insulin lispro: a critical evaluation
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Record Status
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Citation

Authors' objectives
To summarise the evidence relating to the effectiveness and cost effectiveness of insulin lispro.

Authors' conclusions
The reported advantages of lispro are:

It lessens the rise in serum glucose after meals.

Hypoglycemic episodes occur less frequently.

The overall glycemic control is improved in patients with type I diabetes who require insulin pumps.

It has been proposed that lispro would be of benefit to patients with unpredictable mealtimes to allow more schedule flexibility (convenience factor). More clinically-oriented applications may include use in patients with frequent episodes of postprandial hypoglycemia (to decrease their risk), patients with insulin resistance due to insulin antibodies (case reports only) and patients on continuous subcutaneous insulin infusion (CSII) therapy.

There is no firm evidence to support a reduced frequency of symptomatic hypoglycemia by lispro treatment in patients with type I diabetes.

The long-term safety profile of insulin lispro has not been established. In the United States it is not approved for use in children under 12 years of age, whereas in Canada there is no such limitation in the product monograph.

Project page URL
https://www.ccohta.ca/

Link to NHS EED abstract
http://www.crd.york.ac.uk/CRDWeb/ShowRecord.asp?ID=21999008102

Indexing Status
Subject indexing assigned by CRD

MeSH
Costs and Cost Analysis; Diabetes Mellitus, Type 1 /drug therapy; Hypoglycemic Agents; Insulin

Language Published
English, French

Country of organisation
Canada
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AccessionNumber
31999008413

Date bibliographic record published
31/03/1999

Date abstract record published
31/03/1999