

# Diabetes

## Life Lines



June-July 2011

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### **Diabetes - the Medical Perspective**

Blood glucose monitoring involves pricking your fingertip, putting a drop of blood on a test strip, and putting the test strip into the glucometer. Your fingertip may get sore, or even callused if you have been testing your blood glucose for a long time. Maybe you could use a different site to test your blood –someplace other than your fingertip.

Those sites might include your palm, arms, thighs, or calves. However, it is sometimes hard to get enough blood from these sites. With newer glucometers, less blood is needed. To see how much blood is needed and then to see if alternate blood sites work with your machine, you'll need to read the directions that came with your glucometer.

You also need to consider a few other things in addition to whether your fingertip is sore or not. You should not try an alternate site if your blood glucose has been unstable; that is, if it has been sometimes high, sometimes normal or low. You also shouldn't use an alternate site if you are sick because blood glucose often fluctuates a lot during illness. Alternate sites are better indicators of your true blood glucose before you eat; after you eat you should use your fingertip. Similarly, alternate sites are better *before* exercising; *after* exercising, use your fingertip.

Talk to your healthcare team and doctor about whether you can use alternate blood glucose monitoring sites instead of your fingertips. As you record your blood glucose levels, indicate if it is from your fingertip, or an alternate site. If it is an alternate site, write down which site it was.

Using alternate sites may require a little extra work. However, if your fingers get sore, it could be worth it.

## Diabetes and Food

Why choose lower fat cheese, lunchmeat or crackers if you have diabetes? The first reason is the calories. Most people with diabetes are trying to maintain a healthy weight. That means not eating extra calories that could cause weight gain. Fat has 9 calories per gram, whereas both protein and carbohydrates have 4 calories per gram. This means that foods with a higher fat content will have more calories. An extra 5 calories per gram may not seem like much, but think about skim (fat free) milk versus whole milk. The difference in fat grams is zero vs 7.9 per 1 cup. This equals zero fat calories vs 71.1 calories. Drink 3 glasses per day, 7 days a week, and this adds up to many added calories.

A second reason for choosing lower fat foods more often if you have diabetes is the increased risk that people with diabetes have for developing heart disease. A preventive measure for heart disease is to lower fat intake.

Lower fat foods include lower fat dairy, whole cuts of meat rather than ground meat, chicken without skin or visible fat, tuna in water rather than oil, and lower fat grain and starchy foods. Choosing fat free or lower fat salad dressings, mayonnaise, and gravy is also a good way to lower overall fat.

Choose special treats that have lower fat, such as baked chips or cookies with lower fat.

These tips will help you lower dietary fat, lower heart disease risk, and help you maintain a healthy weight.

## Medication Update

Glycet (miglitol) and Precose (acarbose) are both alpha-glucosidase inhibitors. They work by slowing the digestion of foods high in carbohydrates. Foods high in carbohydrates include grains, pasta, and starchy foods; milk; and fruit and juices. Slowing the digestion of these foods and taking one of these medications will help to slow the rise in blood glucose that happens after eating a carbohydrate-rich food.

These medications don't lower blood glucose overall, like other oral medications do or like taking insulin does. Usually people take Glycet or Precose along with insulin or another oral medication.

While taking these medications plus another oral medication or insulin, your blood glucose may go too low. Your doctor will tell you warning signs to watch for, or have you monitor your blood glucose after meals.

## Recipes to Try

### Swiss Chicken

2 skinless chicken breasts,  
3 ounces each  
1 tablespoon olive oil  
1 tablespoon minced garlic

**2 servings-3 ounces each**

1.5 tablespoons flour  
1 ounce Swiss cheese  
water

1. Add oil and garlic to skillet. Cook chicken breasts over medium heat, 15-20 minutes, depending on thickness. Add water as needed to prevent burning or sticking. Brown chicken on each side.
2. Remove chicken. Add flour and brown. Add cheese and stir while melting. Add about 1 tablespoon water to thin if needed.
3. Add chicken and simmer another 5 minutes. Serve with sauce pouring over breast.

#### *Nutrition facts per serving*

Calories	262	Fat	13 grams
Protein	29 grams	Calories from fat	45%
Carbohydrate	5 grams	Cholesterol `	78 mg
Fiber	0 grams	Sodium	90 mg

*Preparation time 25 minutes*

### Potato Salad with Shrimp and Feta Cheese

0.75 pounds potatoes, cooked,  
quartered  
0.5 pounds cooked shrimp,  
de-tailed  
3 cups shredded lettuce  
1 cup bell pepper, chopped

**8 1-cup servings**

0.5 cup thinly sliced red onion  
.25 cup crumbled feta cheese  
1 tablespoon kalamata olives,  
pitted, chopped  
.5 cup fat-free Italian dressing

1. Toss lettuce and potatoes with dressing.
2. Add other ingredients and toss gently.

#### *Nutrition facts per serving*

Calories	87	Fat	2 grams
Protein	8 grams	Calories from fat	18%
Carbohydrate	10 grams	Cholesterol `	47 mg
Fiber	1 gram	Sodium	159 mg

*Preparation & cooking time 30 minutes.*



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<b>BREAKFAST</b>	<b>Amount/Portion</b>
French toast	2 slices
Low calorie syrup	2 tablespoons
Lower fat margarine	1 tablespoon
Pear	1 medium
Skim milk	8 ounces
582 calories, 83 g carbohydrates, 5.5 carbohydrate choices	
<b>SNACK</b>	
Low fat yogurt	6 ounces
Banana	1 medium
290 calories, 61 carbohydrates, 4 carbohydrate Choices	
<b>LUNCH</b>	
Asparagus frittata <sup>†</sup>	1 serving
Whole wheat toast	2 slices
Whipped margarine	2 teaspoons
Garden salad	1 cup
Fat free salad dressing	1 tablespoon
Pineapple bars <sup>†</sup>	2
Iced tea	8 ounces
700 calories, 75 carbohydrates, 5 carbohydrate choices	
<b>DINNER</b>	
Swiss chicken <sup>†</sup>	1 serving
Hard roll	1
Margarine, whipped	2 teaspoons
Brown rice	1 cup
Steamed broccoli	1 cup
Skim milk	8 ounces
Sliced peaches	.5 cup
717 calories, 79 carbohydrates, 5.5 carbohydrate choices	
Total: 2028 calories, 298 carbohydrates, 20 carbohydrate choices	

<sup>†</sup> recipes from *Diabetes Lifelines* or *Recipes for Diabetes* at <http://urbanext.illinois.edu/diabetesrecipes/intro.cfm>