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# Physical Activity Combine Medical Nutrient Therapy to Control Glycemia Gestational Diabetes Mellitus in Hung Vuong Hospital, Vietnam

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#### **Summary**

Gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) trend to rise in the world and in Vietnam. Diagnosis is not difficult and initial treatment with appropriate diet for good results. With proper physical activity and exercise coordination can help stabilize blood glucose better.

**Objectives:** To determine the rate of pregnant women with stable blood glucose levels when treated with a controlled combined diet and exercise regime at Hung Vuong Hospital.

**Method:** Quasi experimental study on 121 pregnant women with GDM treated with diet regimen at Department of High risk pregnany, Hung Vuong Hospital, HCMC from 12/2017 to 04/2018, eligible sample and agree to participate in research.

**Results:** [1] The prevalence of GDM with stable blood glucose after 3, 5 and 7 days of dietary restriction combined with physical activity by walking for 30 minutes per day were 71.2 95%CI [63.2-79.1], 84.8 95%CI [75.5-91.0] and 87.2 95%CI [81.3-90.0] [2]. Combine with diet and exercise, level blood glucose stability with RR=2.67, 95% CI [1.03-6.92], P<0.05. Other unrecognized factors had statistically significant differences [3]. Total physical activity intensity of the study participants: 112.27 Met-hours/week [4,5].

**Conclusion:** Physical activity and exercise 30 minutes per day combined with dietary restriction helps stabilize blood sugar levels in pregnant women with GDM [6-9].

**Keywords:** Gestational Diabetes Mellitus; Dietary Restriction; Physical Activity and Exercise

Abbreviatations: IDF: International Diabetes Federation; GDM: Gestational Diabetes Mellitus; ADA: Ameriacan Diabetes Association; MNT: Medical Nutria Therapy

#### Introduction

In 2013, the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) estimated that about 16.6% live children from mothers with hyperglycemia during pregnancy. This report also noted a huge difference in the incidence of disease, up to 25% in Southeast Asia to 10.4% in North America and the Caribbean [10]. Of which, 91.6% gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) comes from low-income and middle-income countries. In Vietnam, GDM is an issue of increasing concern, a series of epidemiological studies conducted in recent years, recognizing that the proportion of GDM is increasing in population. However, it is noteworthy that the frequency of diseases affected by the study population (performed at the hospital) or using the 1-step -75g diagnostic criteria (according to International Association of Diabetes and

Pregnancy Study Groups) can make much higher than the gener al screening or use of 2-100g standard (WHO) [10,11]. As in Jane Hirst's study, on 2702 pregnant women performed screening for GDM by testing 75 grams of sugar, with the Ameriacan Diabetes Association (ADA) 2010 standard, 6.1% (164 women) being positive. However, when applying standards established by the IADPSG organization, up to 20.3% of pregnant women have to treat GDM [8,12,13].

Managing of GDM is a multi-disciplinary combination, notably the role of obstetric, nutrition, endocrinology and neonatologists, with the goal of reducing adverse pregnancy outcomes and risks for mother through stabilizing and maintaining the target blood sugar level. Guidelines for GDM treatment of many Obstetrics

associations agree a fundamental intervention for GDM is the change in lifestyle and medical nutria therapy (MNT) defined as the delivery of meals with the carbohydrate level controlled allows to provide adequate nutrition with reasonable weight gain, blood sugar control and avoid the risk of ketonimia. Many studies around the world have reported that the rate of blood sugar is stabilized immediately after abstimence from a few days to several weeks, ranging from 45-86% after 1-2 weeks [14]. Some longer-term studies followed abstinence after 4 weeks, with success rates of more than 90% [5].

The risk of physical activity during pregnancy is very low, and is recommended for all pregnant women [7]. With a normal pregnancy, regular physical activity helps improve, maintain fitness, control weight gain, improve mental health. With GDM, physical activities is recommended as a component of lifestyle intervention therapy, which is an essential treatment in parallel with MNT [7,11]. All ADA, WHO, and IADSP agree that "the women with diabetes and diabetes do not have any internal medical condition or no obstetric complication should be encouraged to initiate or continue an average motor intensity as part of treatment " [11]. At the Fifth International Diabetes Federation, it was suggested, "A 30-minute daily exercise regime, encouraged movement such as brisk walking, arm exercises when sitting on a chair for at least 10 minutes after each meal helps achieve blood sugar goals " [4]. Recognizing the importance of combined  $\,$ abstinence in GDM management, we conducted the study: "The results of treatment of gestational diabetes with an abstinence diet combined with physical activity at Hung Vuong hospital in 2017-2018". The results are expected to be useful in evaluating the results of current diabetes treatment regimens as well as the desire to improve the effectiveness of hospital treatment and reproductive health in general. Research question: How is the effect of stabilizing blood sugar when combining dietary and physical exercise in treating GDM?

#### **Subjects and Methods**

Research design: Quasi Experimental Study

#### **Inclusive** criteria

All pregnant women with gestational diabetes treated with abstinence diet in High-risk pregnancy department, Hung Vuong hospital, HCMC from December 2017 to the end of April 2018. Single pregnancy, gestational age ≥ 28 weeks. Literacy and understanding Vietnamese, agree to participate in research.

#### **Exclusion criteria**

Pregnancy GDM and insulin therapy. Abnormalities, pregnancy (placental placenta, placenta praevia, fetal distress, stillbirth). There are medical or obstetric conditions with contraindications to physical activity. Do not agree to participate in the study.

#### Sample size

The formula compares two averages of a target group be-

fore and after the intervention: With r (correlation coefficient between 2 assessments). C=7.85 (when  $\alpha = 0.05$  and  $\beta = 0.2$ ). The study of dietary regime in combination with desirable exercise will reduce the average of 3 mg / L of pre-feeding blood glucose (finger blood sugar) according to the study of Anjana 2016 [6]. The maximum standard deviation for the largest sample size is 13. ES=3/13=0.57, the correlation coefficient is 0.7. So according to the formula, calculate N=89. Expected loss of 15% of samples should require at least 103 to ensure sample capacity. Actually obtaining 121 objects. Choose the whole sample until enough samples. The median physical activity is defined as "Low" when the total physical activity intensity is less than the median, "High" when the total physical activity intensity is higher than the median number.

#### Adherence to abstinence

Pregnant women eat properly according to the regime of the hospital on a daily menu, do not eat or drink anything other than the menu.

#### Exercise adherence

pregnant women perform 30 minutes of daily movement, for 5-7 days of treatment, each pregnant woman is given a time clock to ensure sufficient time for movement.

#### Physical activity variables

activity intensity levels calculated based on the questionnaire PPAQ (Pregnancy Physical Activity Questionnaire) standardized Vietnamese, including 32 physical activities divided into 4 groups: household/care activities (13 activities), career activities (5 activities), sports/exercise activities (8 activities) and travel activities (3 activities) and static/inactive activities (3 activities)) [3,13].

Each activity will be calculated based on the intensity and the total energy dissipated with the metabolic-hour equivalent unit (MET-hour). MET is the metabolic rate at rest, calculated as the amount of oxygen consumed at still sitting, equivalent to 3.5ml Oxygen kg weight/minute (≈1,2kcal/1 minute for people weighing 70kg Metabolic equivalents (MET-hours) are equal to the total energy dissipated by adding all activities, each activity will be divided into 4 groups according to intensity (sitting activity: <1.5 METs, Light activity: 1.5-<3.0METs, Average activity: 3.0 -<6METs, and Strong activity: ≥6.0METs) [2]. Heavy consumption then calculated Full by multiplying the time spent on each activity each day with intensity. Use Stata 10 software to import and process data and analyze data. To assess the decrease in blood sugar levels at the time before and after the intervention, we use Signed rank test

#### Result

Table 1 Characteristics of the participants (n=125) & (Table 2-4)

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Table 1: Characteristics of the participants (n=125).

Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage (%)
People		
Kinh	121	96,08
Others	4	3,20
Region		
Urban	84	67,20
Rural	41	32,80
Mother age		
Mean: 29,4±4,86 years old		
<25	20	16,00
25-34	83	66,40
≥35	22	17,60
Career		
Workers, salers	45	36,00
Jobholders	39	31,20
housekeepers	25	20,00
Others	16	12,80
Literacy		
Unfinished high school	15	12,00
Graduated and post graduated high school	110	88,00
Recent Children		
Not at all	64	51,20
≥ 1 child	61	48,8
Family Income/ Month( Vndong)		
Less than 10 million	25	20,00
10 - <20 million	67	53,60
From 20 million	33	26,40

**Table 2:** The stability of blood sugar level after intervention.

Blood Sugar Level	Stability, N%	Unstability, N%
After 3 days	89(71,20)	36(28,80)
After 5 days	106(84,80)	19 (15,20)
After 7 days	109 (87,20)	16(12,08)

 Table 3: Logistics Regression analysis variables related intervention.

W!	Blood Sugar Level After 7 Days of Intervention		D.D.	WTC OFO	D*
Variables	Stable	Unstable	RR	KTC 95%	P*
	Follow Up Strictly Nutritional Diet				
Yes	6(27,27)	16(72,73)	Ref	1,03-6,92	0,04
No	103(100,00)	0(00,00)	2,67		
Physical Activities					
Yes	5(33,33)	10(66,67)	Ref	0,57-4,17	0,39
No	104(94,55)	6(5,45)	1,54		
BMI Before Pregnancy					
<23	91(96,81)	3(3,19)	Ref	0,46-1,46	0,51
≥23	18(58,06)	13(41,94)	0,82		

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		Previous GDM			
No	100(91,74)	12(11,65)	Ref	0,41-1,81	0,70
Yes	9(56,25)	7(43,75)	0,86		

<sup>(\*)</sup> Multiple variable logistics regression

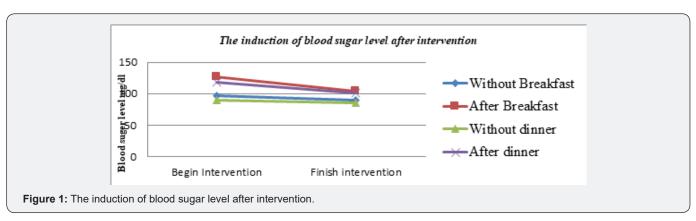
Table 4: Distribution of physical activity intension (Met-hour/week).

Physical Activities	Median (25 <sup>th</sup> -75 <sup>th</sup> )	
Total intension of physical activities (Met-hour/week)	112,27 (98,725-123,2)	
Physical Activities by Intensive Levels		
Sitting	37,275 (21,35-46,475)	
Low intensive level	30,1 (21,6-43,225)	
Average intensive level	30,9 (23,675-46,05)	
High intensive level	0	
Physical Activities by Work Content		
House keeping	37,275 (26,25-51,1)	
Office Jobs	42,7 (23,975-61,25)	
Doing exercise	1,625 (0,8-2,675)	
Walking	25,2 (17,675-32,55)	

#### **Discussion**

The study with 125 pregnant women participated in the intervention and monitored blood sugar (fingertips) 4 times/day. Pregnant women with target blood glucose ≥70% of the total value of monitored blood sugar are considered to have stable blood glucose levels. According to the treatment regimen, women are considered successful treatment and discharged after 5 days. Results, after 3 days of treatment, 89 pregnant women were able to stabilize blood sugar, accounting for 71.2% and after 5 days,

106 pregnant women achieved blood sugar targets, accounting for 84.8%. Only 19 pregnant women, accounting for 15.2%, need to review, adjust the diet and exercise, continue to monitor for 2 days. In the next 2 days, in 19 pregnant women, 3 more cases (15.7%) achieved stable blood sugar, 16 women (84.3%) did not reach the target blood sugar, had to consider using more insulin, is considered a failure to treat. Thus, the ratio of stable pregnant women to blood sugar after 3 days is 71.2% 95% CI [63.2-79.1], 5 days is 84.8% 95% CI [78.5-91.0] and 7 days were 87.2% 95% CI [81.3-90.0], P < 0.05.



According to the results from Table 2 and Figure 1, all glycemic indexes were statistically significant (p <0.001) after intervention. The results of this study are similar to the research of Ram Uma and Anjana, who performed GDM treatment according to WING-MOC care intervention (the project to treat pregnant women with diabetes in India based on the recommendation of International Diabetes Federation) [1]. Specifically, in Anjana's study, 151 GDM pregnant women were treated for MNT and physical activity by walking with

a step counter with a walking diary and a step number meter was included [1]. After the end of the intervention, there was a reduction in fasting blood sugar, blood sugar after meal 1 hour and 2 hours (p <0.001). The authors report a moderate reduction in fasting blood glucose of 3.0 mg / dl (with fasting blood glucose before MOC:  $89\,\text{mg}$  / dl, after MOC:  $85\,\text{mg}$  / dl, p <0.001), lower than our study. However, at the 2-hour postprandial blood glucose level, blood sugar reduction was higher than -35 mg / dl (blood sugar 2 hours before MOC:  $148\,\text{mg}$  / dl, after MOC

111mg / dl, p <0.001). The difference may be due to the longer duration of treatment (2 weeks after intervention) compared to us (1 week), making the 2-hour postprandial blood glucose level more stable. This is in line with trials that demonstrate the long-term effects of physical activity on the improvement of hepatic glucose tolerance (through postprandial hypoglycemia), maintaining stable blood sugar levels (through stability HbA1c) [14]. Also with the 2017 WING-MOC intervention, Uma reported the rate of stabilizing blood sugar with MNT and walking on 212 pregnant women after 84 weeks of intervention. This result is lower than our study (blood glucose stabilization rate 87.2%, but only after 5-7 days). Perhaps because in our study, all pregnant women received inpatient treatment, with the calculated diet and physical activity monitored and monitored closely leading to higher compliance rates, with can help quickly achieve stable blood sugar levels.

In order to compare, and to find a valuable and reliable tool to evaluate physical activity for pregnant women. Author Matteo Sattler in 2018 conducted a meta-analysis of 18 studies with 11 questionnaires evaluating different physical activity during pregnancy. The author noted that PPAQ questionnaire showed advantages over other questionnaires in both value and reliability [13]. Also in this study, the Vietnamese version of PPAQ was also reported with an ICC correlation coefficient of 0.87-0.94 for all areas including activity intensity levels and activity types. Although PPAQ has not achieved reliability and cumulative value (perhaps due to lack of standards in how to obtain data), the author also recommends using PPAQ instead of the remaining questionnaires [13]. Therefore, in this study, we use Vietnamese transliterated PPAQ questions to assess the physical activity of the subjects in the study. Thus, from the results of table 3.3, pregnant women have a total physical activity intensity of 112.27 Met-hours / week. Another study with a similar design by Nguyen Cong Luat 2018, performed on 2030 Vietnamese pregnant women from 6 major hospitals across the country, including Hung Vuong hospital, recorded the total activity intensity. force is 116.6 Met-hours/week [12]. These study also compared the intensity of physical activity between two groups with and without GDM, both recorded GDM subgroups had a lower total activity intensity than normal pregnant women (p <0, 05) [12].

#### Limitation of the Study

In this study, we only evaluated the effectiveness of the intervention through the short-term outcome of the rate of stable blood glucose as well as the reduction of fasting blood sugar and postprandial blood glucose 2 hours after the intervention. Long-term outcomes such as: rate of macrosimia, stillbirth, preterm, birthing, caesarean section were not investigated. The biggest drawback of our study is that there is no control group, we cannot compare the outcome between the group with and without intervention. Assessing the level of movement through a set of questions makes it easy to make mistakes due to recall.

#### **Conclusion**

Results of treatment of diabetic patients with dietary regime combining physical fitness in Hung Vuong hospital in 125 cases, we draw some conclusions as follows:

- a) The rate of pregnant women with diabetes with stable blood sugar after 3.5.7 days of treating nutritional abstinence with physical activity by walking 30 minutes a day is 71.2% 95% CI [63.2-79.1], 84.8% 95% CI [78.5-91.0], 87.2% 95% CI [81.3-90.0], P <0.05.
- b) Nutritional adherence of combined motion modulation increases the rate of glycemic stabilization with RR=2.67 95% CI [1.03-6.92], P <0.05. Other factors that have not been recorded are statistically significant differences.
- c) Total physical activity intensity of participants: 112.27 Met-hours/week.

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