



**EXERCISE AND BLOOD GLUCOSE LEVELS IN PATIENTS WITH TYPE I  
DIABETES – A PILOT STUDY**

**Blutzuckereinstellung bei Diabetes mellitus Typ I in Abhängigkeit  
von unterschiedlichen Belastungen – eine Pilotstudie**

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## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1. Pathophysiology of type 1 diabetes mellitus**

Type 1 diabetes mellitus (T1DM) is a metabolic disease with insulin deficiency and a dysfunctional release of counter regulatory hormone glucagon (Oyer 2013; Cryer 2012; Younk et al. 2011). In the pathogenesis of T1DM autoantibodies to insulin (IAA), glutamate decarboxylase antibodies (GADA), islet antigen-2 (IA-2A) and zinc transporter 8 (ZnT8A) (Larsson et al. 2013; Han et al. 2013; Long et al. 2012) can be detected. In absence of endogen produced insulin the translocating glucose transporters (GLUT) cannot be activated (excepted insulin insensitive GLUT-2 in liver,  $\beta$ -cells of pancreas, kidneys and small intestine and GLUT-4 while muscle contraction) (Jensen & Richter 2012). The GLUT translocate to the cell surface and import glucose into the cell for metabolism or glycogen storage by glucose-6-phosphatase (G-6-P) (Rose & Richter 2005). For that reason in patients with T1DM exogenous insulin must be injected by intensified insulin therapy or insulin pump therapy. This exogenous insulin docks on the insulin receptor, the insulin receptor substrate (IRS) reacts with G-proteins (guanine nucleotide-binding proteins) on the phosphatidylinositide-3 kinase (PI-3 kinase) and activates GLUT. Furthermore without insulin there is a deficient carbohydrate metabolism while glycogen synthesis, glycogenolysis, gluconeogenesis and glycolysis (Mutschler et al. 2007).

Dependent on dysfunctional insulin release there is also failure in counter regulatory glucagon reaction (Cryer 2012; Ramnanan et al. 2011; Taborsky 2010). In T1DM is no decrease of insulin release while hypoglycemia and thus no increase of  $\alpha$ -cell glucagon secretion. So in T1DM there are less endogenous opportunities to avoid hypoglycemia.

### **1.2. Physiology of type 1 diabetes mellitus in sports**

It's already known that in T1DM and non type 1 diabetes mellitus (nT1DM) during and after physical activity the glucose utilization increases (Seaquist et al. 2013; Hansen et al. 2013; Reichkender et al. 2013). During exercise glucose degradation rate in blood plasma increases by enhanced translocating GLUT-4 through skeletal muscles contractions caused by an increase of calcium ( $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ ), adenosine triphosphate (ATP) turnover, adenosinmonophosphate kinases (AMPK), TBC1D1/4, endothelial nitric oxide synthase

(eNOS), p38 mitogen-activated protein kinases (p38 MAPK) and sucrose nonfermenting AMPK-related kinase (SNARK) (Jensen & Richter 2012).

In place of endogenous insulin in nT1DM and exogenous insulin in T1DM muscle contractions activate the GLUT-4 during exercise and as a result glucose consumption increases. In contrast to T1DM patients in healthy subjects endogenous insulin secretion decreases during exercise according to mode, intensity and duration. Therefore in T1DM is a twofold GLUT-4 increase and a high risk of hypoglycemia during exercise.

Furthermore the risk of hypoglycemia exists also post exercise. Several studies have shown that one bout of exercise increases insulin sensitivity for hours which often causes difficulties in insulin regimen (Campbell et al. 2013; Taplin et al. 2010; The Diabetes Research in Children Network (direcnet) Study Group 2006).

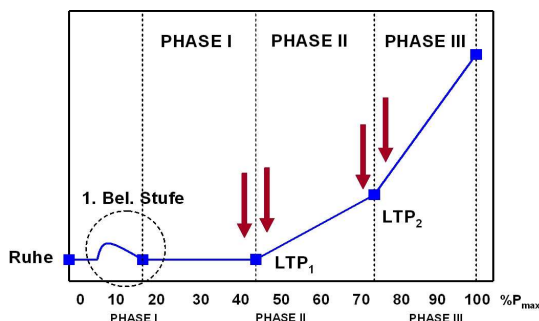
### **1.3. Adaptation of carbohydrate intake and insulin injection before an exercise in type 1 diabetes mellitus**

Based on these physiological aspects guidelines describe how to reduce the risk of hypoglycemia during and after exercise (Younk et al. 2011; Hernandez et al. 2000). However, these recommendations are usually very general and unspecific. Several studies have shown, that the regular insulin dose before an exercise leads to hypoglycemia due to the above mentioned mechanisms (American Diabetes Association 2013; Brugnara et al. 2013; Yardly et al. 2013; Dube et al. 2012; Van Bon et al. 2011; Mauras et al. 2010; The Diabetes Research in Children Network (direcnet) Study Group 2006; American Diabetes Association 2004; Sandoval 2004; Biankin 2003). Therefore patients with T1DM have to increase carbohydrate intake and/or to reduce insulin injection dose before and after performing exercise (Younk et al. 2013). The mode of exercise is an influencing factor, which impacts blood glucose levels during and especially after exercise. Some studies demonstrated, that high intensity intermittent exercises lead to a lower decrease in blood glucose level than constant load exercise (Adams 2013; Dube et al. 2012; Harmer et al. 2008; Harmer et al. 2007, Bussau et al. 2006; Guelfi 2005). However, there is a lack in the guidelines to which amount to reduce insulin or increase carbohydrate intake related to different exercise intensities and modes.

## 2. Pilot study

**Objective:** To perform sports and exercise in patients with type I diabetes they need to reduce insulin dose or increase carbohydrate intake to avoid hypoglycemia. There is a lack in the guidelines how to reduce insulin or increase carbohydrate intake related to different exercise intensities and modes. The purpose of the present study was to investigate the relationship between the blood glucose concentration and the intensity and the duration of the work load applying a standardized pre exercise glucose and insulin regimen. As a hypothesis we expect an energy expenditure and intensity dependent decrease of blood glucose concentration which offers the opportunity to calculate a critical time ( $t_{crit}$ ).

**Research Design and Methods:** One trained male subject with type I diabetes (age: 25 years; weight: 72 kg; high: 1.8 m;  $VO_2max$ :  $55.4 \text{ ml}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$ ; insulin: NovoRapid/Levemir; C-peptide positive,  $HbA_{1c}$   $48 \text{ mmol}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$ ) performed 4 hours after the last insulin/carbohydrate supplement, with a reduction of short time insulin to 40%, a maximal incremental cycle ergometer exercise test (40 W start;  $20 \text{ W}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$  increments) to determine the first ( $LTP_1$ ) and the second lactate turn point ( $LTP_2$ ) by means of computer based linear regression break point analysis. Three phases of energy supply can be detected and



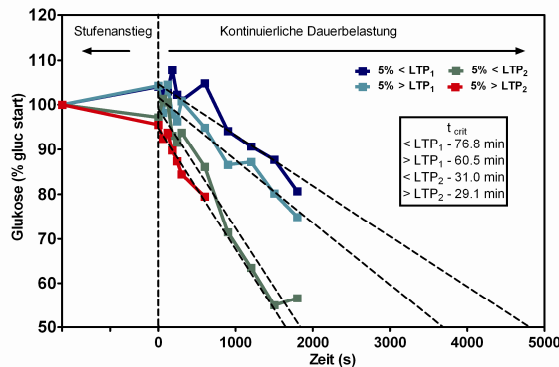
**Figure 1: Three phases model of lactate metabolism ( $LTP_1$ =Lactate Turn Point 1,  $LTP_2$ =Lactate Turn Point 2,  $La$ =Lactate,  $Max$ =Power maximum; red arrows=Constant load ergometer exercise)**

separated by  $LTP_1$  and  $LTP_2$ . The  $LTP_1$  is characterized as the first increase in blood lactate concentration above baseline. The  $LTP_2$  is detected as the second abrupt increase in lactate between  $LTP_1$  and  $P_{max}$  which defines the highest constant workload to give still a

lactate steady state (fig. 1). Four constant load ergometer exercise tests (30 min) were performed at 5%  $P_{max}$  below and above  $LTP_1$  and  $LTP_2$  (arrows in fig. 1) with a reduction of

short time insulin doses of 25% at 5%  $P_{max}$  below and above  $LTP_1$  and 50% at 5%  $P_{max}$  below  $LTP_2$  and 75% at 5%  $P_{max}$  above  $LTP_2$  according to the literature. Heart rate and gas exchange variables were determined continuously, blood lactate concentration ( $La$ ) and blood glucose concentration were determined at rest, at the end of every workload step, every 5 min in constant load ergometer exercise as well as during 3 and 6 min of active and passive recovery.

**Results:** Linear declines of blood glucose were found in all tests. At 5% < LTP<sub>1</sub> glucose decreased from 191 mg/dl to 149 mg/dl, 5% > LTP<sub>1</sub> from 131 mg/dl to 96 mg/dl, 5% < LTP<sub>2</sub> from 169 mg/dl to 91 mg/dl and 5% > LTP<sub>2</sub> from 187 mg/dl to 144 mg/dl (early stop because of work load acidosis above LTP<sub>2</sub>). The decline of the blood glucose concentrations



**Figure 2: Illustration of the blood glucose levels in relation to the intensity and the duration of the work load**

were calculated by a linear interpolation to  $t_{crit}$  (50% rest of the baseline value) without any other supply of carbohydrates (Fig. 2).  $t_{crit}$ : 5% < LTP<sub>1</sub> – 77 min; 5% > LTP<sub>1</sub> – 31 min; 5% < LTP<sub>2</sub> – 31 min; 5% > LTP<sub>2</sub> – 29 min.

**Conclusion:** The results show a linear reduction of glucose concentration in relation to the intensity and duration of the work load. We suggest that it is possibly to

calculate a critical time for a certain glucose threshold in type I diabetes patients to avoid hypoglycemia during sports and exercise.

### 3. Study goal and hypothesis

We do know that patients with T1DM must adapt insulin and carbohydrate intake before exercise, but we don't know the specific individual amount. Therefore we have shown in our pilot study a model how to adapt insulin injection dose (while constant basal insulin use) with respect to standardized intensities and how to calculate a critical time where glucose level in T1DM patients with insulin therapy would fall into hypoglycemia during sports and exercise. Now we have to verify those data with a group of subjects and additional hormonal markers while using basal insulin degludec (Tresiba®, Novo Nordisk).

The aim of the present study is to calculate a critical time by a pre exercise standardized insulin regimen during standardized cycle ergometer exercises dependent on different modes, intensity, duration and energy expenditure as well as counter regulatory hormones. As a hypothesis we expect no hypoglycemia during the cycle ergometer exercises dependent on an standardized pre exercise standardized insulin regimen in relation to the intensity, duration and the energy expenditure of the exercise and no post exercise hypoglycemia.

If the results confirm the hypothesis, this study could be the first recommendation for T1DM patients, how to individually adapt insulin dose before defined exercises without hypoglycemia during and after exercise.

## 4. Methods

### 4.1. General study design

This project is a proof of concept study. After the recruitment by the Medical University of Graz (Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism), at the first screening visit control of the inclusion and exclusion criteria will be done and subjects will give their signed informed consent. Before testing a 4-week adaptation of basal insulin degludec (Tresiba®, Novo Nordisk) will be done. Each subject will perform a maximal incremental cycle ergometer exercise test to determine exercise markers to prescribe constant load and intermittent exercise tests (Hofmann & Tschakert 2011). Four constant load and three intermittent ergometer exercise tests (30 min) will be performed at 5%  $P_{max}$  below and above  $LTP_1$  and  $LTP_2$  with a reduction of short time insulin doses (breakfast-four hours before each test) of 25% at 5%  $P_{max}$  below  $LTP_1$  and 50% at 5%  $P_{max}$  above  $LTP_1$  and 75% at 5%  $P_{max}$  below and above  $LTP_2$  (Tschakert & Hofmann 2013). 24 h before testing subjects will be fitted with a continuous glucose monitoring system (CGMS) for at least 48 h. At 5%  $P_{max}$  above  $LTP_2$  there will be no intermittent ergometer exercise test. The same reduction of bolus insulin before testing will be done 15min after testing.

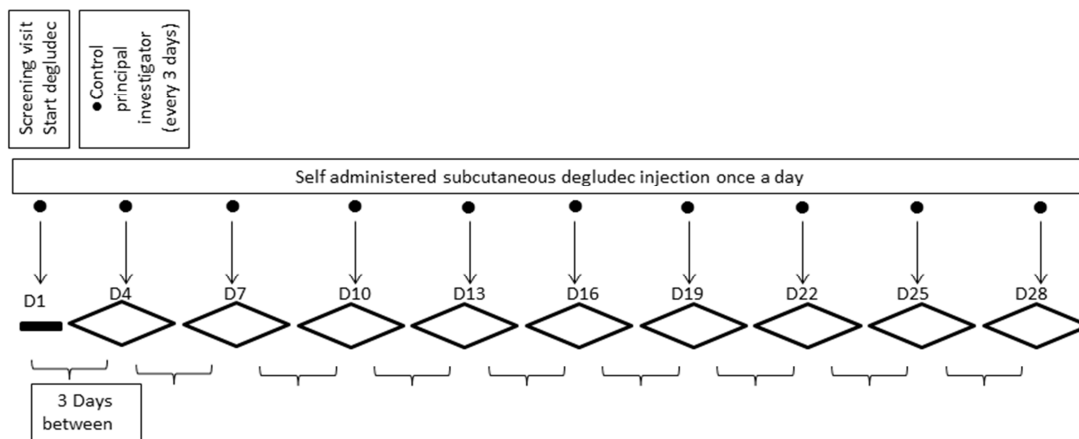
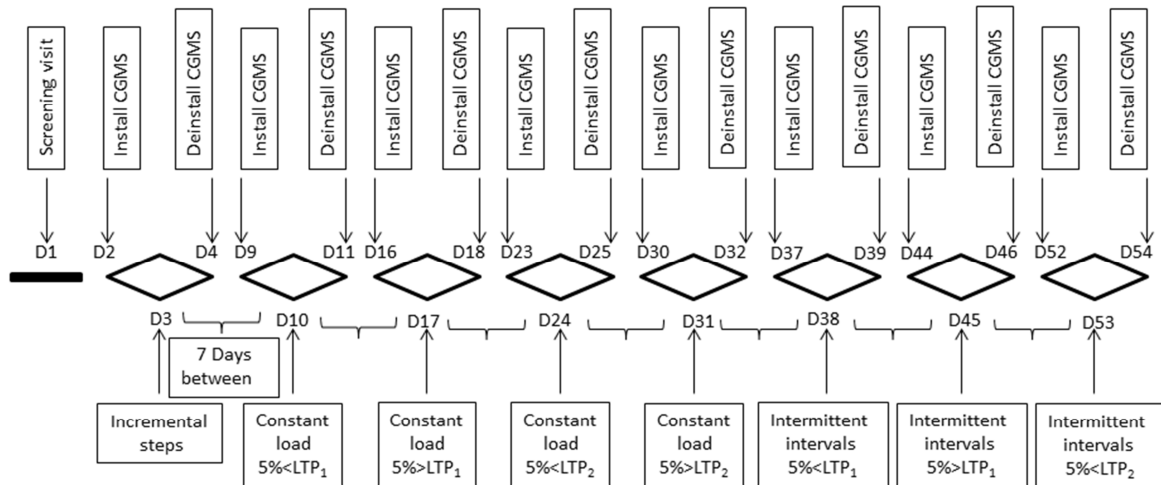


Figure 3: Adaption of insulin degludec



**Figure 4: Duration of a study block with one subject. One week between every test to avoid training effect**

## 4.2. Subjects recruitment

Inclusion criteria:

- Subjects must give their signed and dated informed consent before any trial-related activities. Trial-related activities are any procedure that would not have been performed during normal management of the subject
- Male subjects with type 1 diabetes with duration  $\geq 12$  month
- Age  $\geq 18$  to  $\leq 35$  years, both inclusive
- $HbA_{1c} \leq 64$  mmol/mol
- Fasting C-peptide negative ( $\leq 0.3$  nmol/l)
- Treatment with intensified insulin therapy or insulin pump therapy
- No diabetic long term complications
- No other physical and/or mental disease

Exclusion criteria:

- Previous participation (randomisation) in this trial
- History of any illness or disease that, in the opinion of the Investigator might confound the results of the trial
- Use of drugs, which may interfere with the interpretation of trial results or are known to cause clinically relevant interference with insulin action, glucose utilisation, or recovery from hypoglycemia
- Current addiction to alcohol or substances of abuse as determined by the investigator
- Known or suspected allergy to trial products or related products
- Any condition that the investigator feels would interfere with the trial participation or evaluation of data

Testing day inclusion criteria:



- 48h before testing no hypoglycemia
- 24h before testing no alcohol

Testing day exclusion criteria:

- Illness on and/or before testing day
- Low glucose level immediately before testing (< 80 mg/dl)
- Defect CGMS
- Incorrect time of bolus insulin injection (4 hours before testing)
- Mental incapacity, unwillingness, or language barriers precluding adequate understanding or co-operation
- Incorrect amount of bolus insulin injection (last before testing)

### **4.3. Screening visit**

Subjects will receive a subject's number in ascending order. The following will be assessed and recorded in the case report form (CRF):

- Subjects get informed of study design and will give informed consent
- Assessment of inclusion and exclusion criteria
- Demography
- Abuse of drugs, alcohol and smoking habits
- Diagnosis of diabetes
- Body measurements: height (m), weight (kg) and body mass index (BMI)
- Determination of TDD through diabetes diary (Walsh et al. 2011).

### **4.4. Adaptation of basal insulin degludec (Tresiba®, Novo Nordisk)**

Insulin degludec is indicated to be administered once-daily subcutaneous at the same time every day (European Medicines Agency 2013). In T1DM insulin degludec have to be combined with bolus insulin to cover mealtime requirements, so there will be no adaptation in bolus insulin amount. The dosage of insulin degludec will be adjusted every three days individually, with a starting dosage of 70% of the TDD of insulin (European Medicines Agency 2013).

### **4.5. Calculation of carbohydrate factor and correction factor**

To determine the amount of carbohydrate exchanges, which increases blood glucose level, we will calculate the carbohydrate factor (CarbF) and the glucose correction factors (CorrF) according to Walsh et al. (2011):

$$\text{CarbF} = 5,7 * \text{weight (kg)} / \text{TDD (U)}$$

$$\text{CorrF} = 1960 \text{ (mg/dl)} / \text{TDD (U)}$$

The carbohydrate factor indicates how many grams of carbohydrates 1 unit of insulin covers and the correction factor measures how far glucose concentration will fall per 1 unit of insulin (Walsh et al. 2011).

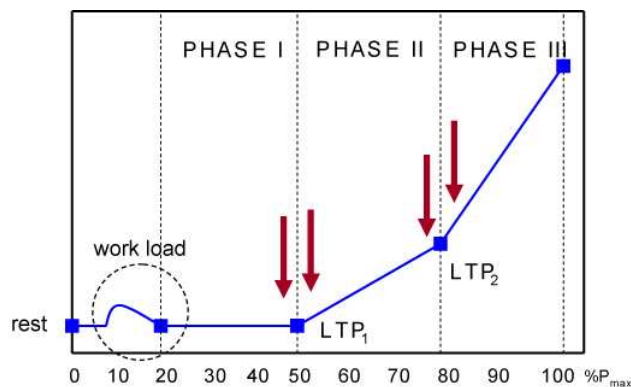
#### **4.6. Install of CGMS and edition carbohydrate supplement**

Subjects will be fitted with the CGMS 24h before exercise testing. A hypoglycemic alarm function will be set at 80 mg/dl to avoid hypoglycemia below baseline (70 mg/dl). Standard glucose measurements will be done in a usual way to calibrate the CGMS. Also carbohydrate supplement (Fortimel complete®, Nutricia) will be handed out for the standardized breakfast with the individual amount calculated for each test.

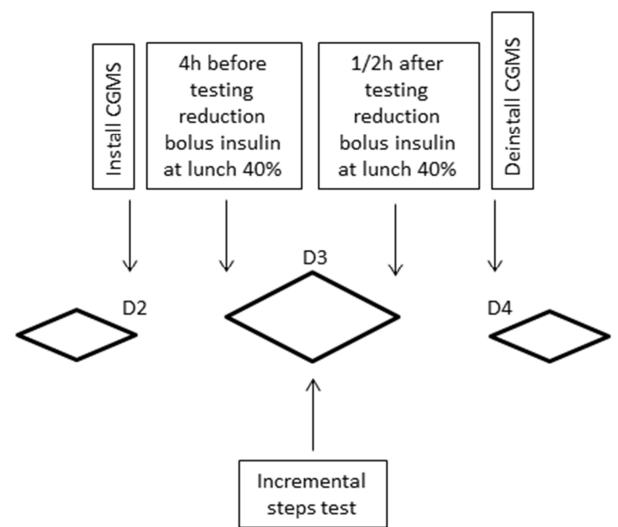
#### **4.7. Maximal incremental cycle ergometer exercise test**

Four hours after the last insulin/carbohydrate supplement (Fortimel complete®, Nutricia), with a reduction of short time insulin to 40% and constant basal insulin (calculated amount of carbohydrate intake and dose of insulin injection of the CarbF and CorrF), subjects will perform a maximal incremental cycle ergometer exercise test (40 W start; 20 W.min<sup>-1</sup> increments) to determine the first (LTP<sub>1</sub>) and the second lactate turn point (LTP<sub>2</sub>) (Hofmann & Tschakert 2011). Three phases of energy supply can be detected and separated by LTP<sub>1</sub> and LTP<sub>2</sub>. The LTP<sub>1</sub> is characterized as the first increase in blood lactate concentration above baseline. The LTP<sub>2</sub> is detected as the second abrupt increase in lactate between LTP<sub>1</sub> and P<sub>max</sub> which defines the highest constant workload to give still a lactate steady state (fig. 4). Heart rate and gas exchange variables will be determined continuously, blood lactate concentration and blood glucose concentration will be determined at rest at the end of every workload step, every 5 min in constant load ergometer exercise as well as during 3 and 6 min of active and passive recovery. We decided to choose intensities for the constant load tests and the high intensity intermittent exercise tests related to defined phases of energy supply representing common activities. 5% < LTP<sub>1</sub> is like daily activity at low intensity. 5% > LTP<sub>1</sub> is like fast walking at low to moderate intensity. 5% < LTP<sub>2</sub> is equivalent to moderate to high intensity activity or sports below the maximal lactate steady state. 5% > LTP<sub>2</sub> is a high

intensity activity with no more lactate steady state. To simulate sports games we decided to do those high intensity intermittent exercise tests, which are very similar to this type of physical activity.



**Figure 5: Three phase's model of lactate metabolism (LTP<sub>1</sub>=Lactate Turn Point 1, LTP<sub>2</sub>=Lactate Turn Point 2, La=Lactate, Max=Power maximum; red arrows=Constant load ergometer exercise and except 5%>LTP<sub>2</sub> for high intensity intermittent exercise)**

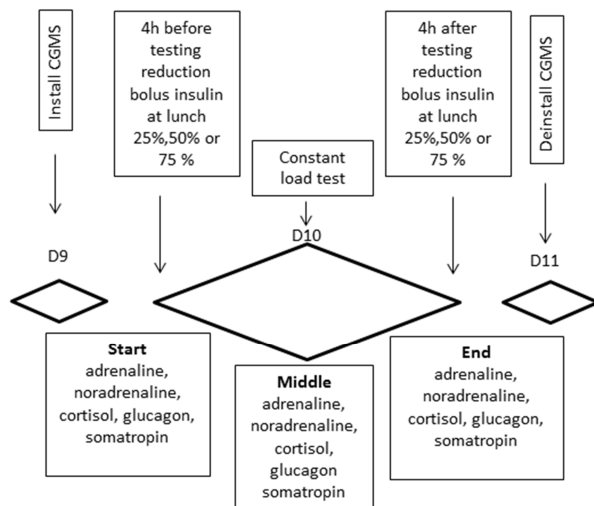


**Figure 6: Timetable of incremental steps test**

#### 4.8. Constant load test

In all constant load tests heart rate and gas exchange variables will be determined continuously, blood lactate concentration and blood glucose concentration will be determined at rest, at the end of every workload step, every 5 min in constant load ergometer exercise as well as during 3 and 6 min of active and passive recovery. Gas exchange variables will be processed to calculate the energy expenditure and the distribution of glucose and fat metabolism (glucose and fat g/min) (Moser et al. 2013). Furthermore, at the start, in the middle and at the end of exercise venous will be drawn to determine adrenaline, noradrenaline, cortisol, glucagon and somatropin (Bao et al. 2009; Harmer et al. 2007; Bussau et al. 2006; Guelfi et al. 2005; Sandoval et al. 2004). Every 10 minutes blood glucose will be measured additionally from fingertip blood samples to determine the actual blood glucose level to provide hypoglycemia during the exercises and to calibrate CGMS. After the tests glucose concentration will be measured autonomously four times every full hour to avoid post exercise hypoglycemia also by fingertip measures.

The constant load ergometer exercises tests will be performed for 50 min at 5% P<sub>max</sub> below and above LTP<sub>1</sub> and for 30min at 5% P<sub>max</sub> below and above LTP<sub>2</sub> (arrows in fig. 5) with a standardized reduction of short time insulin and constant basal insulin (calculated amount of



**Figure 7: Time table constant load tests**

carbohydrate intake and dose of insulin injection of the CarbF and CorrF).

#### **4.9. High intensity intermittent exercise tests**

In all high intensity intermittent exercise tests heart rate and gas exchange variables will be determined continuously, blood lactate concentration and blood glucose concentration will be determined at rest, at the end of every workload step, every 5 min in constant load ergometer exercise as well as during 3 and 6 min of active and passive recovery. Gas exchange variables will be processed to calculate the energy expenditure and the distribution of glucose and fat metabolism (glucose and fat g/min) (Moser et al. 2013). Furthermore at the start, in the middle and at the end of exercise adrenaline, noradrenaline, cortisol, glucagon and somatropin will be determined from venous blood samples (Bao et al. 2009; Harmer et al. 2007; Bussau et al. 2006; Guelfi et al. 2005; Sandoval et al. 2004). Every 10 minutes, blood glucose will be measured additionally from fingertip blood samples to determine the actual blood glucose level to provide hypoglycemia during the exercises and to calibrate CGMS. After the tests glucose concentration will be measured autonomously four times every full hour to avoid post exercise hypoglycemia.

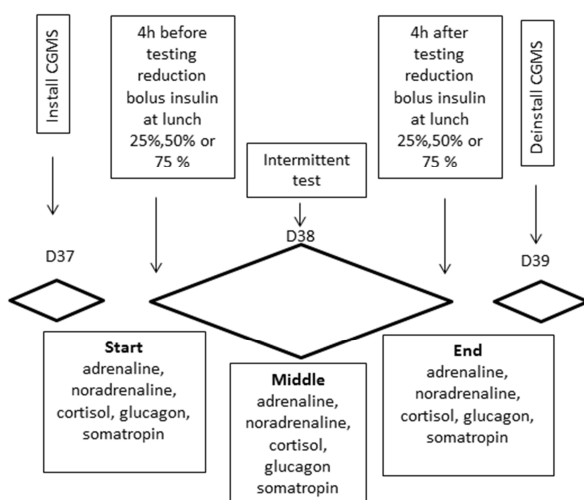
The high intermittent exercise tests will be performed for 50 min at 5%  $P_{max}$  below and above  $LTP_1$  and for 30min at 5%  $P_{max}$  below  $LTP_2$  (arrows in fig. 4) with a standardized reduction of short time insulin and constant basal insulin (calculated amount of carbohydrate intake and dose of insulin injection of the CarbF and CorrF). The high intermittent exercise tests will be performed with the same mean work load ( $P_{mean}$ ) like in the constant load exercise tests which can be calculated by the following equation:

$$P_{\text{mean}} = (P_{\text{peak}} * t_{\text{peak}} + P_{\text{rec}} * t_{\text{rec}}) / (t_{\text{peak}} + t_{\text{rec}})$$

Intervals will be set at  $P_{\text{max}}$  from 20 sec interspersed by active recovery at 80 %  $P_{\text{LTP1}}$  whereas the recovery time will be calculated according to the formula by Tschakert & Hofmann (2013).

**Table 1: Representation of the whole ergometer testing batch**

Intensity	Duration	Mode
1) Maximal incremental cycle ergometer exercise test	All out	All out
2) 5% < LTP <sub>1</sub>	30min	Constant load exercise
3) 5% > LTP <sub>1</sub>	30min	Constant load exercise
4) 5% < LTP <sub>2</sub>	30min	Constant load exercise
5) 5% > LTP <sub>2</sub>	30min	Constant load exercise
6) 5% < LTP <sub>1</sub>	30min	Intermittent interval
7) 5% > LTP <sub>1</sub>	30min	Intermittent interval
8) 5% < LTP <sub>2</sub>	30min	Intermittent interval



**Figure 8: Timetable of high intensity intermittent exercise tests**

## **4.10. Measurements**

### **4.10.1. Anthropometric data and TDD**

At the screening visit we will determine body measurements: height (m), weight (kg) and body mass index (BMI) and TDD (U).

### **4.10.2. Blood glucose, gas exchange, heart rate variables and lactate**

In all tests blood glucose and lactate will be measured from blood samples from the earlobe and heart rate and gas exchange variables will be determined continuously. Blood lactate concentration and blood glucose concentration will be determined at rest, at the end of every workload step, every 5 min in constant load ergometer exercise as well as during 3 and 6 min of active and passive recovery. Lactate and glucose concentration will be determined by system Biosen S-line (EKF-Diagnostik, GER). Heart rate will be determined through a 12-lead ECG (ZAN, AUT) and also by Polar PE4000 (Polar Electro, FIN). Gas exchange variables will be determined by an open spiro-ergometry-system (ZAN, AUT). LTP<sub>1</sub> and LTP<sub>2</sub> will be assessed by means of computer based linear regression break point analysis ProSport (Schlemmer, AUT) (Hofmann et al. 2001). Additional fingertip glucose measures will be performed by the subjects own glucose measurement device.

### **4.10.3. Continuous glucose monitoring system (CGMS)**

CGMS sensor Dexcom G4 (Dexcom, USA) will be inserted into subcutaneous tissue (postural-lateral abdominal region) 24h prior to each test for 48h, to get a permanent glucose recording pre, during and post exercise and to minimize the risk of hypoglycemia. Blood glucose readings will be stored in the memory of the monitor, which is connected to the sensor. Glucose data will be processed computer based through Dexcom Studio (Dexcom, USA).

### **4.10.4. Hormones**

Adrenaline, noradrenaline, cortisol, glucagon and somatropin will be determined from venous blood samples obtained from a cubital vein at the start, in the middle and at the end of each exercise test. Adrenaline and noradrenaline will be quantified by RIA (DRG Diagnostics, USA) and glucagon by RIA (ICN, USA). Somatropin will be measured using CLIA (Immolute,

Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics, USA) and cortisol by CLIA (CENTAUR Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics, USA).

## 5. Statistics

Statistical power analysis was done with G\*Power 3.1.7 (Faul et al. 2007). A repeated-measures ANOVA design (number of repetitions = 4) was calculated a priori with a medium effect size of 0.5 and an alpha-error of 0.05 based on pilot data. Correlations between repetitions were assumed to equal 0.5. With a sample size of 6 patients the achieved power (beta-1) is greater than 0.95 and is therefore appropriate for a high risk study. In case of dropout we decided to do our study with 7 subjects.

$$H_0: \beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta_3 = \beta_4 \quad (\beta \dots \text{regression coefficient})$$

$$H_A: \beta_1 \neq \beta_2 \neq \beta_3 \neq \beta_4$$

Results will be assessed by analysis of variance (ANOVA) for repeated measures with the paired or unpaired t test, Wilcoxon`s rank-sum test for paired data, or Friedman`s repeated measures by ANOVA on ranks when applicable (GraphPad Prism® Software version 4.0, USA). Values will be presented as mean  $\pm$  SEM.



## 6. Time table for subjects

The whole study will last for each subject to 3 months (4 weeks adaption of insulin degludec, 8 weeks of exercise testing – one week between each test). We intend to start the study at 07.01.2014.

Adaptation insulin degludec													TIME SCHEDULE
Preparation for tests													
Pilot batch													
Data analysis													
Scientific papers													
Presentation & publication													
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Months

## **7. Dissemination strategies and potential impact**

The protocol information for this study will be registered at an external web site - [www.clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.clinicaltrials.gov). Defined goal is to publish our study in prestigious diabetic and sports medical journals and to present the results at scientific conferences. The practice-oriented outcome will also be published as a recommendation to give T1DM patients the possibility to do spontaneous exercise and sports with minimized risk of hypoglycemia.

The results of our project may define data based guidelines how T1DM patients should adapt insulin regimen without risk of hypoglycemia. Worldwide there are 20 million people with T1DM and two-thirds of new diagnoses are younger than 20 years (Patterson et al. 2009; Svensson et al. 2009; Group 2006 & 2007). So, therefore T1DM is a public health problem which influences mostly the younger population. Our strategy will increase the quality of life of patients with T1DM and will minimize the risk of exercise induced hypoglycemia (Davey et al. 2013).

## 8. Cooperation partners and resources

Our study will be conducted by the Exercise Physiology & Training Research Group, Institute of Sports Science, University of Graz in cooperation with the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism of the Medical University of Graz.

All cycle ergometer tests will be performed at the Institute of Sports Science including analysis of lactate, blood glucose, heart rate and gas exchange variables. Recruitment of the subjects before all tests and analysis of all drawn intravenous blood samples as well as CGMS analysis will be performed by our partners at the Medical University of Graz .

The Exercise Physiology & Training Research Group has a longstanding expertise for the prescription of exercise intensities for scientific studies and clinical studies with respect to sports and exercise. Therefore, the data based adaptation of insulin dose and carbohydrate supplement dependent on exercise intensity seems to be an optimal strategy to verify recommendations for T1DM patients performing sports and intense physical activity. The cooperation partner, the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism has an outstanding experience and knowhow with respect to glucose pharmacokinetics, important to correctly interpret data in a systemic disease like T1DM. That kind of expert group seems to be the optimal way to protect T1DM patients from exercise induced hypoglycemia.

Research team:

Exercise Physiology & Training Research Group, Institute of Sports Science, University of Graz:

- Ao. Prof. Mag. Dr. Peter Hofmann, FASCM

Project leader, he will have the custody with his expertise in exercise physiology in training concepts in metabolic diseases. He will be present at each cycle ergometer test to supervise the correct sequence of determination blood lactate and glucose. He will also helping analyze all lactate and glucose measurements statistically.

- Dr. med. univ. Werner Gröschl

Medical supervisor while testing period, he will draw blood samples for hormone analysis and he will install CGMS.

- Othmar Moser, Mag.

PhD student, he will be present at all cycle ergometer exercise tests including taking blood glucose and lactate samples from earlobe. Also he will analyze and interpret all tests and will write a PhD thesis based on those data.

- Alexander Müller

Laboratory technical assistant, helping with cycle ergometer exercise tests, spiroergometry calibration and measures as well as laboratory organization.

#### Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Medical University of Graz:

- OA. Dr.med. univ. Gerd Köhler

Medical supervisor for endocrinology and recruitment of subjects. He will be the principal investigator for adaptation of insulin degludec. He will be present in the first week at the cycle ergometer exercise test, helping and controlling taking of blood samples.

- Ass.-Prof.<sup>in</sup> Priv.-Doz.<sup>in</sup> Dr.<sup>in</sup> med. univ. Gerlies Treiber

Medical supervisor for endocrinology.

- Univ.-Prof. Dr. med. univ. Thomas Pieber

Medical supervisor for endocrinology. He is the sponsor for the whole pilot study and was helping in creating the study design. Furthermore he is head of all medical concerns including analysis of the study and helping writing papers.

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