







GULF PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRIES

United Arab Emirates, P.O. Box 997, Ras Al Khaimah



Fast Well In Ramadan

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. This annual observance is one of the five pillars of

Islam. During the month of Ramadan, all healthy, adult Muslims are required to fast from dawn to sunset. Although the Quran exempts sick people from the duty of fasting, many Muslims with diabetes may not perceive themselves as sick and are keen to fast.

People with diabetes who fast can have acute complications and the risks may increase with longer fasting periods.

Patients exempted from fasting (based on doctor's recommendation) include:

- Type 1 diabetes
- •Type 2 diabetes with unstable disease
- •Diabetes with complications
- •Elderly patients with diabetes
- Pregnant women with diabetes



Major risks associated with fasting in patients with diabetes

- Hypoglycemia
- Hyperglycemia
- Diabetic ketoacidosis
- Dehydration
- Thrombosis

Breaking the fast:

All patients should understand that they must always and immediately end their fast if hypoglycemia (blood glucose < 60 mg/dl [3.3 mmol/l] or less) occurs. Fasting should also be broken if hyperglycemia (blood glucose exceeds 300 mg/dl [16.7 mmol/l])

Hypoglycemia Symptoms:

- Feeling Tired
- Shaking
- Sweating
- Headache
- Hunger
- Feeling nervous or anxious
- Feeling cranky
- Trouble thinking clearly
- •Double or blurred vision
- Fast heart beat

Hyperglycemia Symptoms:

- Dry mouth
- Thirst
- Frequent urination
- Blurry vision
- Fatique or drowsiness
- Difficulty breathing



Dehydration Symptoms:

- Increased thirst
- Dry mouth
- Tiredness or sleepiness
- Decreased urine output
- •Urine color is more yellowish than normal
- Headache
- Dry skin
- Dizziness

Four key areas to fast well in Ramadan:



Meal planning

During Ramadan there is a major change in the eating pattern compared with other times of the year. The diet during Ramadan for people with diabetes should not differ significantly from a healthy and balanced diet.

Therefore, patients should consider the following dietary advices:

- •The common practice of ingesting large amounts of foods rich in carbohydrates and fats, especially at the sunset meal, should be avoided.
- •Slow energy release foods (as grains, wheat, semolina, beans and rice) should be taken before and after a daily period of fasting.
- •Only a small amount of monounsaturated oils (as olive oil) should be used in cooking.
- Foods high in saturated fat and sugar-rich sweets should be minimized.



Exercising

- Regular light and moderate exercise is safe in type 2 diabetes patients.
- Rigorous exercise is not recommended as the risk of hypoglycemia may be increased.
- Continue the usual physical activity, especially during non-fasting periods.
- Prayers including Tarawih (Al-Qeyam) should be considered as part of the daily exercise regimen as they involve standing, bowing, prostrating and sitting.

Blood glucose monitoring

Capillary blood glucose testing should be done when:

•The patient suspects having symptoms of hypoglycemia (subjective to the individual).



- •The patient is unwell (eg, has a fever).
- •Testing at other times may be useful only if patients are able and willing to adjust their diabetes treatment regimens, such as insulin dosage titration.

Recognizing and managing complications

Patients should be aware of the warning symptoms of dehydration, hypoglycemia and hyperglycemia and should stop the fast as soon as any complications or acute illness occur.

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Time Difference (minutes): Abu Dhabi +4, Ras Al Khaimah -4, Al Fujairah -4, Hatta -3

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Time Difference (minutes): Abu Dhabi +4, Ras Al Khaimah -4, Al Fujairah -4, Hatta -3

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