

PERSPECTIVES IN DIABETOGENESIS

Diabetes Collaborative Study Group and Deptt. of Endocrinology, Metabolism and Diabetes, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, India

Madhumeha or diabetes mellitus, a heterogeneous clinical syndrome of antiquity, is characterised by hyperglycemia as a consequence of absolute or relative insulin deficiency and/or defective insulin action. Pancreatic islet cell dystrophy/degeneration (a poorly understood, strongly genetically predetermined, 'intrinsic' islet cell lesion) and islet cell dysfunction/destruction (due to factors 'extrinsic' to islet beta cells, most commonly islet cell auto-immunity) are the two most important diabetogenic mechanisms. Insulin deficiency probably being the dominant diabetogenic lesion (beta cell reserve), insulin resistance appears to play a secondary or contributory role in human diabetogenesis. Multiple/diverse genetic defects and environmental factors appear to play a secondary or contributory role in human diabetogenesis. Multiple/diverse genetic defects and environmental factors appear to interact to varying extent in disease development. Features relevant to diabetes in the (asian) Indian population diabetes in the (asian) Indian population have been mentioned.