group was restricted to normoglycemic individuals >60 years of age to minimize inclusion of those likely to develop type 2 diabetes later in life. In addition, P12A genotyping was also performed on a random sample of 727 Saudi neonatal bloodspots to ascertain P12A allele frequencies in an unbiased sample.

Data analysis was first performed for an age- and sex-matched cohort in which the type 2 diabetic cases (n = 118) and control subjects (n = 219) were >60 years old. The male-to-female ratios of these case and control subjects were 1.40 and 1.43, respectively. The P, or risk allele, frequency was 0.974 and 0.968 in type 2 diabetic and control subjects, respectively, and was not statistically significant (P = 0.633). However, given the very high incidence of the P allele in this population, the study size was extremely underpowered. No age-related differences in P12A allele frequencies were observed. Demonstration of statistical significance or lack thereof in the Saudi population, at a 95% CI or better, is impractical, as this would require case and control populations where n is >175,000. The high incidence of the P allele in the Saudi population was confirmed by the neonatal sample set in which frequency of this allele was found to be 0.957. Clearly the risk allele frequency of the Saudi population is comparable to the Japanese, Chinese, and African Americans and is among the highest observed to date.

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The Application of Synthetic hANP in Diabetic Nephropathy With Nephrotic Syndrome

Although the optimal time to initiate hemodialysis is not well defined, it is necessary to start extracorporeal ultrafiltration methods (ECUM) earlier in uremic diabetic patients to avoid life-threatening events, such as anasarca, heart failure, and lung congestion. These patients frequently manifest the poor response to the administration of high dosage of loop diuretics. To investigate the effectiveness of concomitant usage of synthetic human atrial natriuretic peptide (hANP) with loop diuretics, we administered carperitide (hANP) in a case with diabetic nephropathy and nephrotic syndrome.

A 44-year-old woman with 10-year history of type 2 diabetes was referred to our hospital because of oliguria, generalized edema, repeated vomiting, and severe diarrhea. She developed overt proteinuria 3 years ago and has been treated with glimepiride. She presented severe anasarca and gained >15 kg body wt during the past 2 months. Blood pressure was 147/87 mmHg, and Achilles tendon reflex and vibrating sense of lower limbs were diminished. The concomitant diuresis reaching 2,000 ml/day, and we gradually tapered the dosage and continued for 25 days. Finally, she maintained the daily urine volume of 1,000–1,500 ml/day with the oral administration of furosemide (120 mg/day) without deterioration of renal functions. Edema, ascites, vomiting, and diarrhea disappeared, and her body weight returned to 56 kg (Fig. 1).

Although the remission and regression of nephrotic syndrome due to diabetic nephropathy was reported (1), the massive proteinuria is usually intractable, and most patients finally manifested end-stage renal disease. The use of a high dosage of diuretics also accelerates intravascular dehydration, elevation of creatinine and uric acid levels, and impaired renal function. Synthetic hANP elevates glomerular filtration rate by increasing renal blood flow and relaxation of the mesangial cells. It also increases the medullary blood flow and inhibits reabsorption of sodium and water of collecting duct cells. The concomitant use of synthetic hANP and loop diuretics enhances the diuretic action and may suppress furosemide-induced aldosterone activation (2). Instead of ECUM, the administration of synthetic hANP in nephrotic patients with diabetic nephropathy is useful to avoid life-threatening anasarca and may prevent the progressive deterioration of renal function.

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### Seasonality in the Incidence of Type 2 Diabetes

A population-based study

The seasonal pattern in the onset of type 1 diabetes has been described (1), but seasonality in the onset of type 2 diabetes has not been previously reported. Some studies revealed seasonal changes in glycemic control in selected cohorts of patients with type 2 diabetes (2–4). While the incidence of type 1 diabetes can be easily studied based on complete registries, the onset of type 2 diabetes is more difficult to identify and study because in the earliest stage of the disorder, mostly nonmedical approaches are applied that are not always recorded in the medical profile. In the progression of type 2 diabetes, the initiation of treatment with oral antihyperglycemic drugs is the stage at which all patients can be definitively recognized as having the disorder.

We identified all incident cases of type 2 diabetes (n = 26,695) for the entire population of Csongrád County, Hungary (n = 430,000), between January 1999 and December 2004. Information was retrieved from the database of the Hungarian National Health Fund Administration, which provides a complete history of prescription drug use of the population at the patient level. Incident cases were defined as patients who had received no antidiabetic therapy during the 12-month period prior to the initiation of an oral antihyperglycemic drug.

For quantifying the strength of seasonality, an autoregressive regression model was fitted to the monthly data and the coefficient of determination ($R^{2}_{\text{Autoreg}}$) calculated (5). The results of the regression revealed a strong seasonality ($R^{2}_{\text{Autoreg}} = 0.632$). Seasonality followed a sinusoidal pattern; the peak month was March, with a monthly incidence of 430.3 ± 34.0 (means ± SD) cases, and the trough month was August, with a monthly incidence of 293.2 ± 23.8 cases. Similar patterns were found in both sexes. The months of peak and trough coincided with the peak and trough periods in the seasonality of HbA$_{1c}$ values previously reported (2).

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