

**Facts about Diabetic Acidosis and Hypoglycemia**

|                        | <b>Diabetic Acidosis</b><br>high blood sugar                                | <b>Hypoglycemia</b><br>low blood sugar<br>“insulin shock”                   |
|------------------------|---|---|
| Cause                  | Excess of food or lack of insulin   | Excess insulin or lack of food  |
| Onset                  | Days or gradual   | Sudden  |
| Skin                   | Dry - flushed   | Pale - moist  |
| Mouth                  | Dry   | Drooling  |
| Thirst                 | Intense (water to flush out sugar)  | Absent  |
| Hunger                 | Absent (just doesn't need food)   | Intense   |
| Vomiting               | Relatively common   | Rare  |
| Abdominal Pain         | Frequent  | Absent  |
| Respiration            | Exaggerated (air hunger)  | Normal or even shallow  |
| Blood Pressure         | Low   | Normal  |
| Pulse                  | Weak - rapid  | Full  |
| Eyeball                | Soft (actually)   | Normal  |
| Vision                 | Quite dim   | Double vision (diplopia)  |
| Tremors                | Absent  | Frequent  |
| Convulsions            | None  | Do have in later stages   |
| Lab: Urine Sugar Level | High  | Absent by 2 <sup>nd</sup> specimen  |
| Diacetic Acid          | High  | Absent  |
| (Acetoacetic acid)     |   |   |
| Blood Sugar            | High  | Below 60 mg per 100 cc  |
| Improvement            | Comes out gradual<br>6-12 hours back to normal<br>Gradual following insulin | Very rapid following<br>carbohydrates - 5 minutes<br>after eating candy bar |
| Breath                 | Fruity or sweet   | No odor   |
| Clinitest              | 1/10 % - 2 %  | Negative  |
| Acetone                | Trace to strong positive  | Negative  |