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DIABETES

Diabetes is a lifelong disease characterized by high levels of glucose (a type of sugar) in the blood. While there are a few types of diabetes.



Monderate alcohol intake refers to Two standard drinks daily for men or One standard drink daily for women, One standard drink is defined as: ²/₃ of a regular can of beer (220ml) A glass of wine (100 ml) A shot of spirit (30ml)

SYMPTOMS

Common Diabetes Symptoms Include:

- ♦ Increased thirst
- Constant hunger
- Frequent urination
- ❖ Blurry vision
- Unexplained weight loss
- ❖ General weakness or tiredness
- Wounds that take longer to heal
- * Darkened skin around the skin fold areas

Any chronic disease come with complications if not managed well, including that of diabetes. Any parts of the body could be affected; eyes, heart, gastrointestinal tract, sexual organs, urinary tract and many others, as blood sugar is circulated widely throughout the body via blood vessels.

Common Complications of Uncontrolled Diabetes Include:

- Stroke
- Eye damage
- Kidney damage
- Nerve damages e.g. impotency in men
- * Foot conditions such as gangrene
- Gum deseases
- Diabetic ketoacidosis: build-up a substance known as ketone bodies due to the breakdown of fats.



TIPS FOR SELF-CARE

- Visit your diabetologist, eye doctor & dentist at least once a year for a complete examination.
- Proper-fitting footwear with adequate support is important to minimize injury.
- Do see a doctor immediately if you experience sudden vision changes which usually appear as blurry, hazzy or with spots.
- Brush your teeth at least twice a day, floss your teeth and rinse your mouth after every meal.
- Self-monitoring of blood glucose.
- Avoid skipping any meals especially if you are on diabetes medication.
- Keep some fast-acting sugar on hand if you are prone to low blood sugar.
- Drink alcohol in moderation & Quit Smoking.

PREVENTING COMPLICATIONS:

Controlling blood sugar levels within a target range for fasting blood glucose is important to prevent any complications, besides, any other existing health conditions, for example high blood pressure should be closely monitored as well.

