Accepted Manuscript

Letter to the Editor

Considerations on Lipoatrophic Skin Lesions Far from Insulin Injection Sites.

S. Gentile, G. Guarino, E. Martedì, T. Della Corte, F. Strollo, on behalf of the Italian Study Group on Injection Techniques,

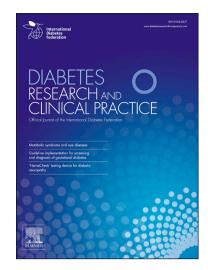
PII: S0168-8227(18)30506-0

DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.diabres.2018.04.019

Reference: DIAB 7334

To appear in: Diabetes Research and Clinical Practice

Received Date: 27 March 2018 Accepted Date: 9 April 2018



Please cite this article as: S. Gentile, G. Guarino, E. Martedì, T. Della Corte, F. Strollo, on behalf of the Italian Study Group on Injection Techniques, Considerations on Lipoatrophic Skin Lesions Far from Insulin Injection Sites., *Diabetes Research and Clinical Practice* (2018), doi: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.diabres.2018.04.019

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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Considerations on Lipoatrophic Skin Lesions Far from Insulin

Injection Sites.

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Injection Techniques.

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Sir,

we would like to present you an interesting case referring to us which might be instructive for many people

and trigger new studies in the field.

A 38-year-old man with type 1 diabetes mellitus (T1DM) referred to us for two deep skin hollows in

abdominal areas where he had never injected insulin before.

T1DM had been suddenly diagnosed in 2008 on hospitalization for ketoacidosis related pre-coma. At that

time high ICA and GAD antibody titers were identified along with euthyroid Hashimoto's disease.

Since the very beginning he had been on glulisine and glargine analogs only. He had been trained to best

injection practices and had proven to be compliant to the rules as for site rotation, but unfortunately he

had been often reusing needles three to four times. About one year after treatment start he noticed the

occurrence of two hollows on the right and left sides of the abdomen, where in fact he had never been

injecting insulin before: they were just barely visible at first but became deeper and deeper over time

(Figure 1, panel a and b) and were unresponsive to topic corticosteroid administration.

In September 2016 he finally referred to us at a BMI of 41.8 Kg/m², with bilateral background retinopathy

as the only diabetes-related complication, and normal chemistry results including urinary albumin and

estimated glomerular filtration rate. His mealtime glulisine boluses were 9, 16 and 12 IU, respectively, his

bed-time glargine dosage was 28 IU, amounting to 65 IU/day (0.56 IU/kg). Unfortunately the patient did not

consent to skin biopsy, yet we were able to perform MRI, which showed lipoatrophy within the abdominal

hollows (Figure 2), and ultrasound scans, which confirmed adipose cells to be replaced by very thin fibrous-

1

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