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Carbohydrate Intake Defining a Low Carbohydrate Diet: Match your Insulin to your Carbs

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Editorial

Researchers, doctors, and persons with Type 2 diabetes are increasingly interested in Low Carbohydrate Diets (LCDs) (T2DM). As a result, several systematic reviews and meta-analyses have looked at the impact of LCDs on glycemic control and clinical outcomes in persons with T2DM. The results have been positive, but there are still disparities in the findings due to one major factor: a wide range of definitions for what constitutes an LCD. For a long time, there has been debate on what constitutes an acceptable LCD definition [1].

The insulin-to-carb ratio indicates that for a certain amount of carbohydrate, you'll need one unit of insulin. If your insulin-to-carbohydrate ratio is 1 unit of insulin per 10 grammes of carbohydrate, for example, you will take 1 unit of insulin for every 10 grammes of carbohydrate you consume. Carbohydrates, sometimes known as carbohydrates, are present in a variety of meals. Grains, sugars, starches, legumes, and dairy, for example, all contain varied quantities of carbohydrates.

When carbohydrate-rich foods and beverages are digested, the carbohydrates are broken down into glucose, which is used to power our cells, and the blood glucose, or blood sugar, level rises. Blood sugar levels rise after meals in persons without diabetes, but the body's insulin response prevents them from climbing too high [2]. The procedure does not operate as it should if you have diabetes. The extent to which carb counting can help you regulate your blood glucose levels is determined on your treatment plan and whether or not your body produces insulin.

Type 1: Because your pancreas no longer produces insulin, you must take both background insulin and mealtime insulin dosages to neutralize the carbohydrates in your diet if you have type 1 diabetes. You'll need to know how much carbohydrate grammes are in your meal-cue carb counting to accomplish this.

Type 2: It's critical to keep track of your carb consumption if you have type 2 diabetes since you're resistant to insulin and may not create enough of it. It's better to consume a constant amount of carbohydrates at meals throughout the day rather than all at once to minimize blood sugar spikes. Those on oral medicines may utilize a simpler carb counting method than those on insulin.

At its most basic level, carb counting entails counting the number of grams of carbohydrate in a meal and comparing it to your insulin dose [3]. If you use mealtime insulin, you must first account for each carbohydrate gram you

consume and then dose mealtime insulin accordingly. You'll use an insulin-to-carb ratio to figure out how much insulin you'll need to control your blood sugar levels after eating. People on intense insulin therapy by injections or pump, such as those with type 1 diabetes and certain type 2 diabetes, should use this advanced version of carb counting.

While persons with type 2 diabetes who don't take mealtime insulin may not require rigorous carb counting to maintain blood sugar control, some people choose to do so [4]. While some people want to continue to traditional carb counting, others prefer a simpler method based on "carbohydrate choices," with each "option" containing roughly 15 grammes of carb. Others follow the Diabetes Plate Method, which involves restricting whole grains, starchy vegetables, fruits, and dairy to a quarter of the plate at each meal.

So, there are a few options, and it really comes down to personal opinion, but keep in mind that the ideal carb counting approach for you is the one that takes into account your medication and lifestyle requirements. When it comes to the appropriate quantity of carbohydrates each meal, your body size and activity level play a big role in determining how much carbohydrate you require. Hunger and appetite also play a role [5].

Conflict of Interest

None.

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