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Review Article

## RELATIONSHIP OF HYPOMAGNESEMIA AND DIABETIC FOOT ULCERS: A LITERATURE REVIEW

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**Abstract:**

*Hypomagnesemia has been suggested to be associated with diabetes, its pathogenesis, complications, and comorbidities. This fact has been explained as a link between hypomagnesemia and decreasing of tyrosine-kinase activity at the insulin receptor level, which may lead to the impairment of insulin action and the occurrence of insulin resistance. Hypomagnesemia is correlated to the incidence of neuropathy and abnormal platelet activity, both of which are risk factors for the progression of the feet ulcer. There is also evidence that magnesium supplementation may be related to decreasing in the occurrence of diabetes mellitus and diabetic complications and comorbidities.*

**Keywords:** *Hypomagnesemia, Diabetes Mellitus, Diabetic Foot Ulcer.*

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**INTRODUCTION:**

Magnesium is the fourth abundant mineral in the human body, is a coenzyme for more than three hundred enzymatic reactions, and is critical for adenosine triphosphate (ATP) metabolism [1]. Magnesium is an essential mineral mostly present in fibrous foods, non-starchy vegetables, fruits, nuts, and dairy products [2]. Due to recent changes in eating habits, decreasing the magnesium level has become abundant, especially diabetic patients. Hypomagnesemia has been investigated in 13.5% to 47.7% of non-hospitalized type 2 diabetic patients contrasted with the incidence of 2.5% to 15% in non-hospitalized non-diabetic patients [3]. Decreased levels of magnesium have been related to increasing resistance of insulin, the occurrence of type 2 diabetes mellitus, or even diabetes medication [4]. Dietary supplementation with magnesium may decrease insulin resistance and diabetes risk. In a study which concerned with the resistance of insulin atherosclerosis, dietary magnesium supplementation was directly associated with increased insulin sensitivity after adjusting for confounding factors [5]. Besides the association between hypomagnesemia and the risk of developing type 2 diabetes, hypomagnesemia is correlated with chronic diabetic complications and elevated mortality rate between severe type 2 diabetic patients [6]. Wang et al. reported a negative correlation between serum magnesium levels and diabetic macrovascular complications, including cardiovascular disease and peripheral artery disease [6]. Foot ulcers are a major problem in type 2 diabetic patients [8]. Development of ulcers of the feet is mainly due to diabetic neuropathy and peripheral vascular disease [9, 10]. Perhaps one-third of foot ulcers have a mixed etiology, i.e., neuropathic and ischemia [9].

**MATERIAL AND METHODS:**

We used scientific websites such as PubMed, Google Scholar, and Research Gate to get related articles about this subject. The research process involved specific keywords "Hypomagnesaemia and diabetes mellitus, foot ulcer related to hypomagnesemia in diabetic patients, complications of hypomagnesemia in diabetic patients and ect" to discover more articles regarding the matter. We were more interested in English published articles just which from 1995 to 2018.

Biological functions of Magnesium ions:

The normal adult has about 25 grams of magnesium. More than 60% of all the magnesium in the body is concentrated in the skeleton, about 27% in muscle, while 6 to 7% is located in other cells and less than

1% is found outside cells. Magnesium contributed to more than 300 essential metabolic reactions[11].

- Magnesium acts as an intracellular regulator of cell cycle control and apoptosis [12].
- Glycolysis, gluconeogenesis and lipolysis require high concentrations of magnesium.
- Magnesium is needed by the adenosine triphosphate (ATP) synthesizing protein in mitochondria.
- Magnesium is needed at many steps during the synthesis of nucleic acids (DNA and RNA) and proteins.
- Glutathione, an essential antioxidant requires magnesium for its formation.
- Magnesium plays a critical role in bone formation, building the structure of cell membranes and structure of chromosomes[13].
- Cell signaling requires Magnesium adenosine triphosphate (MgATP) for the addition of phosphorus (phosphorylation) of proteins and the synthesis of the cell signaling molecule, cyclic adenosine monophosphate (cAMP)[14].

**Possible causes of hypomagnesemia in diabetes:**

1. Dietary deficiency
  - The major sources of magnesium in the food supply are dairy products (20%), grain products (20%), meat, poultry and fish (15%), legumes, nuts and soya products (13%)
  - Most of these have been restricted in a diet prescribed for diabetics, which could be contributing to the higher prevalence of hypomagnesemia in diabetics [15].
2. Decreased intake
  - Secondary to diabetic autonomic neuropathies, which may reduce consumption and absorption[16]
  - Poor oral intake -esophageal dysfunction -diabetic gastroparesis
  - Enhanced gastrointestinal loss
  - Diarrhea as a result of autonomic dysfunction
3. Enhanced renal magnesium loss
  - Enhanced filtered load by glomerular hyperfiltration
  - Osmotic diuresis (glucosuria) -metabolic acidosis (diabetic ketoacidosis)
  - By increasing the serum ionized Mg fraction [17]
  - Hypoalbuminemia- by increasing the serum

- ionized Mg fraction [17]
- Microalbuminuria and overt proteinuria- as a result of protein-bound magnesium loss [18].
- 4. Enhanced tubular flow
  - Increasing the volume as a result of large volume replacement
  - Induce renal Mg wasting and may reduce tubular reabsorption due to high tubular flow [17].
- 5. Reduced renal reabsorption
  - Endocrinologic dysfunction: insulin deficiency or resistance, causing decreased Mg reabsorption at the TAL [19]
  - Metabolic acidosis (diabetic ketoacidosis)
  - Diuretics [3]

#### **Diagnosis of Hypomagnesemia:**

Traditionally, hypomagnesemia is defined as decreasing the concentration of serum magnesium (Mg) since this estimation has for some time been promptly accessible. Clinically, hypomagnesemia might be characterized as a serum Mg concentration 1.6 mg/dl or 2 SD less than the mean of the general population [20]. Mostly the Mg is an intracellular cation; it has been questioned if one can utilize measurements of serum Mg concentrations to study the effect of Mg on different physiologic conditions. Some specialists, instead, have utilized investigations of intracellular Mg concentrations. Clinically, it has been proposed that in a patient with suspected Mg insufficiency, a low serum Mg concentration is adequate to confirm the diagnosis. On the off chance that the serum Mg level is normal in a similar patient, then other more sensitive tests ought to be performed [21].

#### **Role of insulin in the regulation of plasma and intracellular Mg concentrations:**

In vitro and in vivo studies have reported that insulin may regulate the shift of Mg from extracellular to intracellular space. The concentration of intracellular Mg has also been appeared to be viable in balancing insulin activity (essentially oxidative glucose digestion), offset calcium-related excitation-contraction coupling and reduction smooth cell responsiveness to depolarizing stimuli [12].

A low intracellular Mg concentration, as found in noninsulin-dependent diabetes mellitus (NIDDM) and hypertensive patients may lead to an impairment of tyrosine-kinase action at the insulin receptor level and exaggerated intracellular calcium concentration. The two occasions are responsible for weakness in insulin activity and a worsening of insulin resistance

in noninsulin-dependent diabetic and hypertensive patients [13].

On the other hand, the daily administration of Mg in NIDDM patients, restoring a more suitable intracellular Mg concentration contributes to enhancing insulin-mediated glucose administration [14]. The benefits deriving from daily Mg supplementation in NIDDM patients are further supported by epidemiological studies showing that high daily Mg intake is predictive of a lower incidence of NIDDM [22].

#### **The relationship between hypomagnesemia and diabetic foot ulcer:**

The diabetic foot ulcer (DFU) is characterized as signs of an attack and duplication of microorganisms in soft tissues or bone anywhere below the malleoli in a person with type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) [23]. Advancement of foot ulcers is fundamental because of diabetic neuropathy and peripheral vascular infection [24]. It is accounted for that up to 25% of diabetic subjects are in danger of creating DFU amid their lifetime and poor injury healing is a critical purpose for morbidity and mortality [25]. Several studies have suggested that hyperglycemia, insulin resistance, dyslipidemia, increased inflammation, and reactive oxygen (ROS)/nitrogen classes play a vital role in the pathogenesis of DFU [26, 27]. Hypomagnesemia due to low magnesium intake and increased magnesium loss is common in poorly controlled diabetes [28]. Previous studies have shown that low serum magnesium levels are associated with DFU [29, 30]. Hypomagnesemia has been correlated with the development of neuropathy and abnormal platelet function [30, 31], which both are risk factors for the incidence of DFU [32].

#### **Treatment of Magnesium deficiency:**

The beneficial effects of magnesium supplementation on metabolic profiles and biomarkers of irritation and oxidative stress have recently been investigated between patients without DFU. It has been recently reported that the daily administration of 250 mg magnesium oxide for six weeks among patients suffered from gestational diabetes (GDM) had beneficial effects on metabolic profiles and biomarkers of inflammation and oxidative stress [33]. Also, another study demonstrated that magnesium intake cause markedly decreases in the fasting glucose, triglyceride levels, and insulin resistance in normal-weight subjects; however, no significant effect had been found on mean HDL cholesterol levels [34]. But, the administration of Mg for 16 weeks has been reported

to haven't an effect on lipid profiles among T2DM patients [35] and inflammatory factors among healthy middle-aged, overweight women [36]. Improvement of indices of insulin metabolism, lipid profiles, biomarkers of irritation, and oxidative stress by magnesium may be because of their impacts on the acetyl-CoA carboxylase that catalyzes the development malonyl-CoA and is implicated in physiological insulin secretion [37], and inhibiting nuclear factor-kappa B (NF-kappa B) [38]. As there is proof that taking magnesium enhancements may quicken wound healing and has an antidiabetic impact, we theorized that magnesium supplementation might assist patients with DFU to heal their injury quicker and better affect metabolic profiles, and biomarkers of irritation and oxidative stress. The point of the present investigation, in this manner, was to assess the impacts of magnesium supplementation on wound healing and metabolic in patients with DFU [23].

### CONCLUSION:

The levels of magnesium should be controlled in diabetic patients, especially in those with foot ulcers, and magnesium supplementation can be a complementary treatment for these patients. Also, magnesium supplementation can decrease the mortality rate in critically ill patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus.

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