

Entry Level Clinical Nutrition Part XVII

Insulin – part II: Carbohydrate:protein imbalances and the refeeding syndrome

Jeffrey Moss, DDS, CNS, DACBN
jeffmoss@mossnutrition.com

413-530-0858 (cell)

1

60 MINUTES

60 Minutes – Sunday, April 1, 2012

Is sugar toxic?



2

latimes.com

Mark Lenzi dies at 43; American diving champion

Impaired by long Los Angeles performance at the '84 Games, Lenzi concluded it was worthless to diving and quickly became a star, winning gold in the 1987 Olympic Summer Olympic event.

Associated Press

April 14, 2012

Mark Lenzi, the 1987 Olympic leader springboard diver and the first American male to win Olympic gold, died Monday in Louisiana, N.C., he was 43.

Lenzi's elite coach, Indiana University, announced the death last fall and provided the cause. His mother, Patsy, said the diver's breathing apparatus, the first safety line of Paddy's long. Via, that Lenzi had been hospitalized the last few weeks because of fainting spells caused by low blood pressure.

Four years after his gold medal performance in Espirito Santo, Lenzi earned a bronze medal at the 1994 Pan Am Olympic and became the first diver to score 100 points in a single dive.

Lenzi was wrestling in high school when he was suddenly hospitalized by long Los Angeles performance at the 1984 Los Angeles Games. Lenzi changed sports, diving right into his new profession.

Lenzi's competitive resume includes 11 international springboard championships. He won the 1982 event in seven more than 100 points in an 11-dive competition at the Venice hotel and the first American to successfully complete a front 4 1/2 somersault in competition.

Lenzi, who struggled with post-Olympic depression, went into counseling after his diving career ended.

Representative include his wife, mother, three siblings and grandmothers.

www.latimes.com

<http://www.latimes.com/obituaries/obit/lenzi/lenzi-20120414>

3

"...Lenzi had been hospitalized the last two weeks because of fainting spells caused by low blood pressure."

Underlying hypotheses of Entry Level Clinical Nutrition:

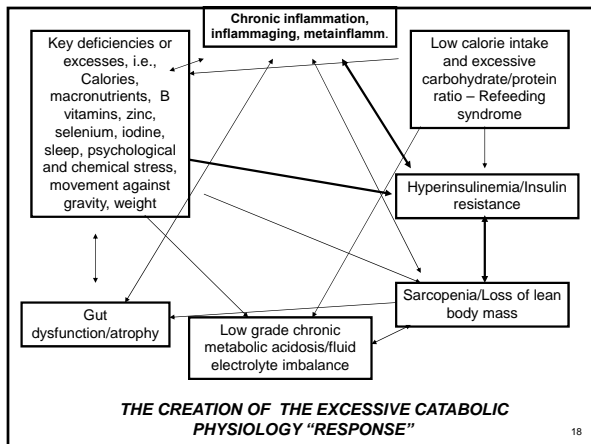
- Chief complaints in chronically ill patients are not diseases but responses that have gone on too long (Allostatic load).
- The metabolic imbalances that combine to form this response have been well defined by critical care nutritionists.

16

Entry Level Clinical Nutrition:

A new model of functional medicine that incorporates allostatic load and the “chronic” acute phase response

17



Is reactive hypoglycemia a mild form of refeeding syndrome?

19

What is reactive hypoglycemia?

20

According to Maria Collazo-Clavel, MD from the Mayo Clinic Website

- “Reactive hypoglycemia (or alimentary hypoglycemia) is low blood sugar that occurs after a meal — usually one to three hours after eating.”
- “Low blood sugar (hypoglycemia) usually occurs while fasting.”
- “Signs and symptoms of reactive hypoglycemia may include hunger, weakness, shakiness, sleepiness, lightheadedness, anxiety and confusion.”

21

Dr. Collazo-Cavell's recommendations

- “Avoid or limit sugary foods, especially on an empty stomach.”
- “Be sure to eat food if you're consuming alcohol and avoid using sugary soft drinks as mixers.”

22

Refeeding syndrome

23

REVIEW

Nutrition in clinical practice—the refeeding syndrome: illustrative cases and guidelines for prevention and treatment

Z Stanga^{1,2}, J Brummel-Cab³, M Eisenberg⁴, M Grollman⁵, M Haskler⁶, M Adkins⁷ and JH Katz⁸

¹Department of Medical Nutrition, University Hospital Bonn, 53105 Bonn, Germany; ²Center of Human Nutrition, Faculty of Nutrition, Food and Food Systems, University of Applied Sciences, 30559 Hannover, Germany; ³Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolic Diseases, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland, USA; ⁴Department of Clinical Nutrition, University of Applied Sciences, 30559 Hannover, Germany; ⁵Department of Clinical Nutrition, University of Applied Sciences, 30559 Hannover, Germany; ⁶Department of Clinical Nutrition, University of Applied Sciences, 30559 Hannover, Germany; ⁷Department of Clinical Nutrition, University of Applied Sciences, 30559 Hannover, Germany; ⁸Department of Clinical Nutrition, University of Applied Sciences, 30559 Hannover, Germany

Stanga Z et al. Nutrition in clinical practice – the refeeding syndrome: illustrative cases and guidelines for prevention and treatment, *Eur J Clin Nutr*, Vol. 62, pp. 687-694, 2008.

Keywords: refeeding syndrome, hypophosphatemia, hypomagnesemia, potassium, thiamine deficiency, malnutrition, malnutrition-related organ dysfunction

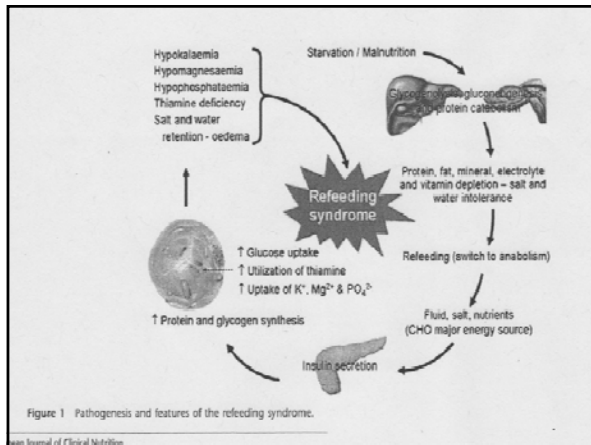
Introduction

The refeeding syndrome was first described during the second world war, involving severely malnourished prisoners of war. It was characterized by hypokalemia, hypophosphatemia, hypomagnesemia, and fluid retention, which led to heart failure, pulmonary edema, and death. The refeeding syndrome is now recognized as a common complication of nutritional rehabilitation in various clinical settings, including the elderly, the critically ill, and the severely malnourished. The refeeding syndrome is a life-threatening condition that can occur when nutrition is reintroduced to severely malnourished individuals. The refeeding syndrome is characterized by a rapid fall in serum phosphate, potassium, and magnesium levels, which can lead to complications such as heart failure, pulmonary edema, and death. The refeeding syndrome is a common complication of nutritional rehabilitation in various clinical settings, including the elderly, the critically ill, and the severely malnourished. The refeeding syndrome is a life-threatening condition that can occur when nutrition is reintroduced to severely malnourished individuals. The refeeding syndrome is characterized by a rapid fall in serum phosphate, potassium, and magnesium levels, which can lead to complications such as heart failure, pulmonary edema, and death.

24

- “The refeeding syndrome was first reported among those released from concentration camps following the Second World War.”
- “Oral feeding of these grossly malnourished individuals often resulted in fatal diarrhea, heart failure and neurological complications, including coma and convulsions.”
- “Milder symptoms were later reported by Keys *et al.* during the refeeding of healthy volunteers with a mean weight loss of 23% after starvation.”

25



Annals of Clinical Nutrition

Table 1 Some groups of malnourished patients at particular risk of developing the refeeding syndrome

Unintentional weight loss	
→	Loss of >5% of body weight in 1 month
→	Loss of >7.5% of body weight in 3 months
→	Loss of >10% of body weight in 6 months
Low nutrient intake	
→	Patients starved for >7 days
→	Prolonged hypocaloric feeding or fasting
→	Chronic swallowing problems and other neurological disorders
→	Anorexia nervosa
→	Chronic alcoholism
→	Depression in the elderly
→	Patients with cancer
→	Chronic infectious diseases (AIDS, tuberculosis)
→	During convalescence from catabolic illness
→	Postoperative patients
→	Diabetic hyperosmolar states
→	Morbid obesity with profound weight loss
→	Homelessness, social deprivation
→	Idiosyncratic/eccentric diets
→	Hunger strikers
Increased nutrient losses/decreased nutrient absorption	
→	Significant vomiting and/or diarrhoea
→	Dysfunction or inflammation of the gastrointestinal tract
→	Chronic pancreatitis
→	Chronic antacid users (these bind minerals)
→	Chronic high-dose diuretic users
→	After bariatric surgery

27

Contributing factors to occurrence of refeeding syndrome

- “Common factors include the severity of the underlying malnutrition, overaggressive nutritional support in the early stages with adequate supplements of phosphate, thiamine, potassium and magnesium, and associated conditions that exacerbate micronutrient, electrolyte and mineral deficiencies, for example alcoholism, gastrointestinal disorders, and poor or eccentric diets.”

28

Metabolic sequence

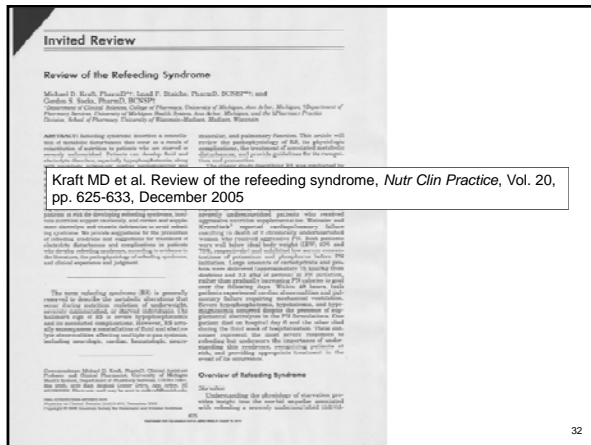
- “During starvation, phosphate and potassium are lost from the cell in proportion to the breakdown of glycogen and protein, potassium being the main intracellular cation balancing the negative charges on proteins.”

29

- “There is, therefore, no clinical deficiency of these electrolytes until catabolism is abruptly reversed and resynthesis of glycogen and protein begins, creating a sudden demand for inorganic phosphate for phosphorylation and adenosine triphosphate (ATP) synthesis and for potassium to balance the negative charges on protein and glycogen.”

30

- “Magnesium, being involved in ATP synthesis, is also taken up by the cells.”
- “Upon the introduction of carbohydrate, insulin is released into the blood stream and there is a shift of metabolism from fat to carbohydrate.”
- Acute thiamin deficiency may be precipitated, especially in patients suffering from chronic alcoholism, since diminished thiamine reserves are rapidly used up, as carbohydrate metabolism is accelerated.”

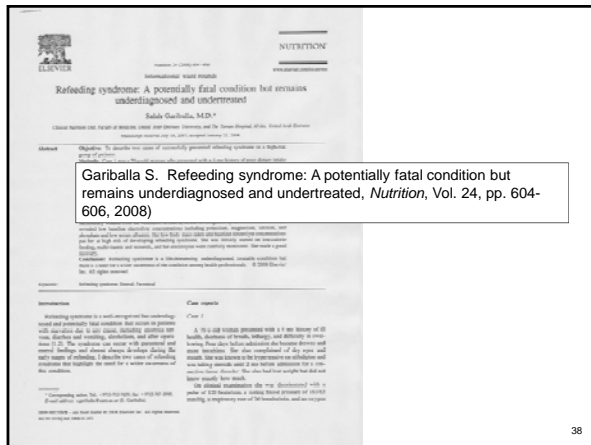


Kraft MD et al. Review of the refeeding syndrome, *Nutr Clin Practice*, Vol. 20, pp. 625-633, December 2005

- “Refeeding syndrome describes a constellation of metabolic disturbances that occur as a result of reinstatement of nutrition to patients who are starved or severely malnourished.”
- “Patients can develop fluid and electrolyte disorders, especially hypophosphatemia, along with neurologic, pulmonary, cardiac, neuromuscular, and hematologic complications.”

- “On refeeding, the absorbed glucose leads to increased blood glucose levels, which increase insulin and decrease glucagon secretion.”
- “The net result of these changes is the synthesis of glycogen, fat and protein.”
- “This anabolic state requires minerals such as phosphate and magnesium and cofactors such as thiamine.”
- “Insulin stimulates absorption of potassium into the cells (via the Na-K ATPase symporter), with both magnesium and phosphate also taken up.”
- “Water is drawn into the intracellular compartment by osmosis.”
- “This decreases serum levels of phosphate, potassium and magnesium further, and results in the clinical features of refeeding syndrome.”

37



Gariballa S. Refeeding syndrome: A potentially fatal condition but remains underdiagnosed and undertreated, *Nutrition*, Vol. 24, pp. 604-606, 2008)

38

- “When patients start to refeed after a period of starvation, a sudden shift from fat to carbohydrate occurs.”
- “A glucose load stimulates insulin release, causing increased cellular uptake of glucose, phosphate, potassium, magnesium, and water and protein synthesis.”
- “This cellular uptake of phosphate, potassium, and magnesium results in a dramatic decrease of concentrations.”
- “Decreased levels of such important minerals can lead to altered myocardial function, cardiac arrhythmias, hemolytic anemia, liver dysfunction, neuromuscular abnormalities, acute respiratory failure, gastrointestinal and renal disorders, and death.”

39

- "...water soluble vitamin deficiencies may be present because of depleted stores from prolonged, inadequate intake."
- "In the face of carbohydrate refeeding, Wernicke's encephalopathy, characterized by mental status changes, ocular dysfunction, and gait ataxia, is most often identified due to inadequate thiamin reserves and thiamin's role as a cofactor in carbohydrate metabolism."

43

- "...after 72 hours of starvation, when glycogen stores from the liver and the skeletal muscle are fully and partially depleted, respectively, glucose synthesis occurs predominantly from lipid and protein breakdown products."
- "Specifically, release of large quantities of fatty acids and glycerol from adipose tissue and amino acids from skeletal muscle are observed."
- "Hepatic fatty acid β -oxidation results in the formation of ketone bodies (acetoacetate, β -hydroxybutyrate, and acetone) which can be reconverted to acetyl-coenzyme A to produce energy via the Krebs cycle."

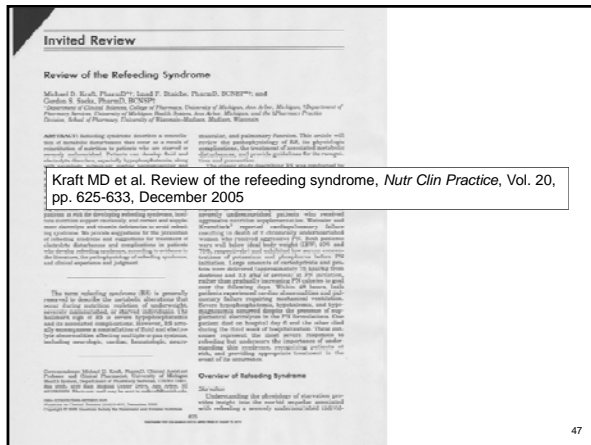
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- "Energy in the form of glucose is also synthesized from endogenous glycerol, the gluconeogenic amino acids (primarily alanine and glutamine) and lactate and pyruvate produced by glycolysis via the Cori cycle."
- "Overall, this adaptation to altered sources of energy can result in profound fat and muscle wasting, in addition to total body depletion of electrolytes, magnesium, potassium, and phosphate."

45

- **“Optimal treatment generally includes a conservative approach to nutritional repletion, although no one technique has been reported to be superior. The clinical mantra of ‘start low and go slow’ has been advocated.”**

46



Kraft MD et al. Review of the refeeding syndrome, *Nutr Clin Practice*, Vol. 20, pp. 625-633, December 2005

47

- **“If a patient manifests signs and symptoms of refeeding syndrome, nutrition support should be started with great caution.”**
- **“All electrolyte abnormalities should be adequately treated and supplemental electrolytes provided in the nutrition formulation above what was previously provided when refeeding syndrome symptoms developed.”**
- **“Multivitamins should also be supplemented...”**

48

- “Currently, it is advised to begin feeding at 20 kcal/kg/day or about half of estimated needs with 1.0 to 1.5 g/kg/day protein and careful attention to correction of electrolyte abnormalities.”
- “A low sodium diet and fluid restriction of 1L/day may also help to prevent fluid overload. To detect fluid overload, daily weights, heart rate, and rhythm should be monitored.”
- “Once electrolytes are stable, it is appropriate to advance feeding by 200 to 300 kcal every 2 to 3 days, pending stable blood electrolytes.”
- “However, weight gain of more than 2 to 3 lb/week is indicative of fluid retention and all of these clinical guidelines must be tailored to the individual case.”

52



Thank you!!

53
