

NHS Tayside Diabetes Managed Clinical Network Patient Information Leaflet

Impaired Glucose Tolerance (IGT) And Impaired Fasting Glycaemia (IFG)

What are these conditions?

Impaired glucose tolerance and impaired fasting glucose are sometimes regarded as forms of “border line” diabetes or a stage before developing diabetes.

Both are diagnosed after having a test called a glucose tolerance test. The results of the glucose tolerance test will confirm which condition you have.

Why is it important to know if you have Impaired Glucose tolerance or Impaired Fasting Glucose?

If your glucose tolerance test confirms that you have one of these conditions, you are at a higher risk of developing diabetes.

Impaired glucose tolerance is known to be associated with a higher risk of heart attacks and strokes.

What can I do to help?

You should have a blood test every year to measure your blood glucose level as you are now at a higher risk of developing diabetes. Arrange an appointment with your GP or practice nurse to have this done.

Making small changes to your lifestyle to make it a healthier lifestyle will help to reduce your risk of developing diabetes.

Smoking

If you smoke - quit now. Smoking greatly increases the chance of developing a serious health problem.

Physical activity

Increased daily activity can help you to control your weight and reduce your risk of heart disease, high blood pressure and stroke.

It is a good idea to take up some form of regular physical activity, such as walking, swimming, dancing or cycling...even housework counts!! Consult your doctor before taking up any regular exercise, particularly if you are overweight.

Healthy Eating

Your food choice is the most important part of your treatment.

What Is Healthy Eating?

1. Eat regularly

- Have 3 meals a day. For example, breakfast, lunch and evening meal. This will help keep your blood glucose levels steady and control your appetite.
- If you need to eat between meals to control your blood glucose levels then this should be healthy foods such as fruit, plain biscuits, a scone or toast with low fat spread.

2. Include a starchy carbohydrate food at each meal

High-fibre varieties that are low in sugar or fat are best. These are used by the body more slowly which will help control your blood glucose levels.

Starchy Carbohydrates High in Sugar or Fat	Choose Starchy Carbohydrates High in Fibre Low in Sugar or Fat
Sugar or honey-coated breakfast cereals, for example, Frosties, Coco Pops, sweetened muesli, most cereal bars	Wholegrain breakfast cereal, for example, Weetabix, unsweetened muesli, Shredded Wheat, Branflakes, porridge
Chips	Potatoes
	Lentils, beans, split peas, broth mix
	Rice, pasta, chapattis Wholemeal and wholegrain varieties of these are better
	Whole grain or granary bread

The preferred foods in the right hand column should be eaten in moderation.

3. Eat less sugar

- Sugar and foods containing sugar can cause the blood glucose to rise suddenly.
- It is best to replace these with *lower sugar* and *sugar free* foods instead. See the table below for examples.
- Providing your day-to-day eating is healthy, the occasional celebration meal will do no harm.
- If you are going to have something sugary, it is best to eat it just after a high fibre meal.

Foods High in Sugar	Choose Foods Lower In Sugar/Sugar Free
Sugar, glucose, glucose syrup, dextrose, sucrose, icing sugar, light spoon, half spoon	Artificial sweeteners, for example, Canderel, Sweetex, Hermesetas, Splenda
Sweet squash and fizzy drinks, for example, Ribena, Lucozade, cola, lemonade, drinking chocolate	Diet, low calorie, sugar-free squash and fizzy drinks, for example, Robinsons Special R, Diet Coke, Pepsi Max, tea, coffee, cocoa or low calorie chocolate drinks
Sweets, for example, chocolate, toffee, fudge, tablet, mints, chocolate covered and cream filled biscuits, marzipan	Plain biscuits or scone
Sugar-coated or honey-coated breakfast cereal, for example, Frosties, Sugar Puffs, Crunchy Nut cereals	Unsweetened breakfast cereal, for example, porridge, Weetabix, Branflakes, Cornflakes, Rice Krispies
Sweet pudding, for example, crumble, tarts, tinned fruit in syrup	Fresh or dried fruit Diet yoghurt, sugar-free jelly Tinned fruit in natural juice
Marmalade, jam, honey, syrup	Reduced sugar marmalade, jam

The preferred foods in the right hand column should be eaten in moderation.

4. Eat less fried and fatty foods.

High fat diets are linked to heart disease and reducing your fat intake will help you lose weight.

Foods High in Fat	Choose Foods Lower in Fat
Butter, Margarine, oil, lard, dripping,	Low fat spread and oils made from unsaturated oils such as olive oil, sunflower oil, corn oil, monounsaturated or polyunsaturated spreads
Fried foods	Grill, poach, boil, microwave or oven bake food
Chips	Potatoes – boiled, steamed or baked
Pies, pastries, sausage rolls, fatty meat	Lean cuts of meat, fish and chicken without the skin
Creamy sauces and dressings	Tomato based sauces or low fat/"light" sauces
Cream, mayonnaise, salad cream, full fat yoghurt, full fat milk	Low fat natural yoghurt, low fat fromage frais, semi skimmed or skimmed milk
Full fat cheese	Reduced fat varieties of cheese, Lower fat cheese such as Edam, gouda, cottage cheese, grate or slice cheese thinly
Crisps, savoury snacks, nuts	Low fat, unsalted crisps or savoury snacks, Unsalted nuts.

The preferred foods in the right hand column should be eaten in moderation.

5. Eat plenty of fruit and vegetables

This will benefit your health and protect your heart

- Aim to eat 2-3 portions of fruit during the course of the day. All fruit is good for you including bananas, small quantities of grapes or dried fruit.
- Buy fresh fruit or fruit tinned in natural juice.
- Try to eat at least 2-3 portions of vegetables or salad every day.
- Use fresh, frozen or tinned vegetables.

6. Include oily fish

Oily fish contains a type of fat called omega 3, which helps protect against heart disease.

- Try to have oily fish in your diet at least twice a week.
- Examples are sardines, pilchards, salmon, mackerel, fresh tuna, herring.

7. Eat less salt

Too much salt can raise your blood pressure which can lead to stroke and heart disease.

- Avoid adding salt at the table.
- Use as little salt as possible in cooking.
- Use herbs and spices to flavour food instead.
- Avoid processed foods, tinned, packed foods, salty meats.
- **Do not use salt substitutes like LoSalt.**

8. Look at Food Labels

Looking at the label on food you buy and eat can help you decide whether the product contains a "little" or a "lot" of fat, sugar or salt.

This is a lot (per 100g)	This is a little (per 100g)
20g fat or more	3g fat or less
5g saturated fat or more	1.5 saturated fat or less
15g sugars or more	5g sugars or less
1.5g salt or more	0.3g salt or less

9. Healthy Weight

Body weight and the risk of developing diabetes are closely linked. If you are overweight it is harder for your body to use insulin properly. Losing small amounts of weight can help you to control your blood sugar level.

A healthy weight will also help:

- reduce your risk of heart disease and stroke
- control your blood pressure
- you look and feel good

Aim for a realistic weight loss (1-2lbs each week). It is better to lose a small amount of weight and keep it off, than to lose a lot of weight and

regain it. If you are overweight it is important that you cut down on the amount of fatty foods you eat and think about your portion sizes.

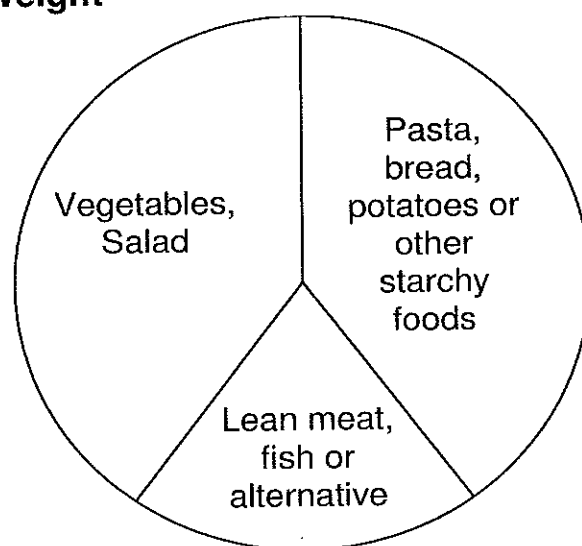
10. Portion Sizes

As well as looking at the types of food you eat it is important to consider your portion sizes, particularly if you are trying to lose weight.

You may need to change the proportions of food on your plate. As a first step you can use your plate as a guide,

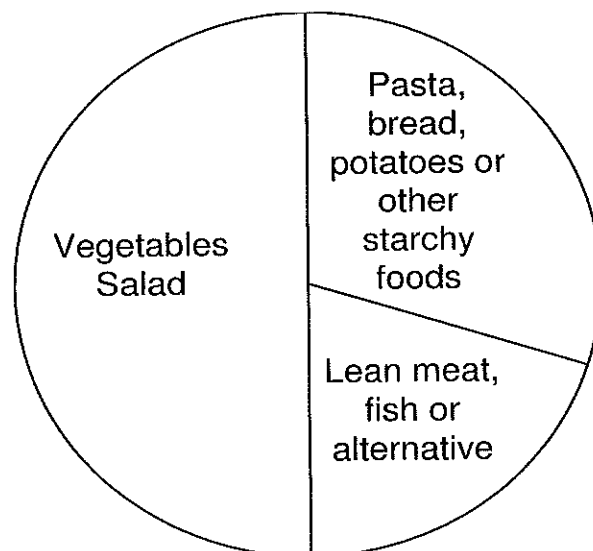
If you are trying to maintain your weight

Try to divide your plate into some starchy carbohydrate foods, vegetables and lean meat, fish, beans or alternatives.



If you are trying to lose weight

Eating less fatty foods will help you lose weight therefore have a smaller amount of lean meat, fish, beans or alternatives. Try to fill half your plate with vegetables and a smaller amount of starchy carbohydrate food.



11. Limit your alcohol intake

Most people with IGT/IFG can enjoy an occasional alcoholic drink.

- The safe amounts of alcohol for people with IGT/IFG and the general population are exactly the same.

Top Tips for Healthy Eating

- **Eat regularly, for example, breakfast, lunch and evening meal**
- **Eat less sugar**
- **Eat less fat and fatty foods**
- **Eat less salt**
- **Include bread, potatoes, cereals, rice, pasta or chapattis with your meals, but in moderation. Remember, as with all foods, if you eat more than your body needs you are likely to gain weight.**
- **Aim to include oily fish each week**
- **Eat plenty of fruit and vegetables**
- **Look at food labels**
- **Aim to achieve a healthy weight**
- **Drink alcohol in moderation**
- **Maintain an active lifestyle**

Last update: January 2010
Uncontrolled when printed