

Erasmus MC
Universitair Medisch Centrum Rotterdam



A patient with ‘epilepsy’

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Mr. J

- 34 years old, no past medical history
- Referred to neurologist, main complaint:
‘attacks of impaired consciousness’
- Conclusion neurologist:
complex partial epilepsy, start carbamazepin
- Few months later....
 - Increase amount of attacks → referral internal medicine

Anamnesis and physical examination



- Anamnesis
 - Attack: 'twilight state': Can observe, but cannot react adequate
 - Only around 10 am
 - Spontaneous recovery after 15 min - 1 hour
 - No collaps, no seizures, no incontinence
 - Sweating and a dry mouth
 - No provoking factors (alcohol, sleep deprivation)
 - No gain of weight since last year
 - No relatives with diabetes mellitus

 - Physical examination
 - No abnormalities
- 

Differential diagnosis Mr. J



TABLE 1. Causes of hypoglycemia in adults**Ill or medicated individual**

1. Drugs
 - Insulin or insulin secretagogues
 - Alcohol
 - Others (Table 1)
2. Critical illness
 - Hepatic, renal
 - Sepsis (including adrenal insufficiency)
 - Inanition
3. Hormone deficiency
 - Cortisol
 - Glucagon and growth hormone
 - Diabetes mellitus
4. Nonislet cell tumor

Seemingly well

5. Endogenous hyperinsulinism
 - Insulinoma
 - Functional β -cell disorders (nesidioblastosis)
 - Noninsulinoma pancreatogenous hypoglycemia
 - Post gastric bypass hypoglycemia
 - Insulin autoimmune hypoglycemia
 - Antibody to insulin
 - Antibody to insulin receptor
 - Insulin secretagogue
 - Other

6. Accidental, surreptitious, or malicious hypoglycemia

Seemingly well individual

5. Endogenous hyperinsulinism
 - Insulinoma
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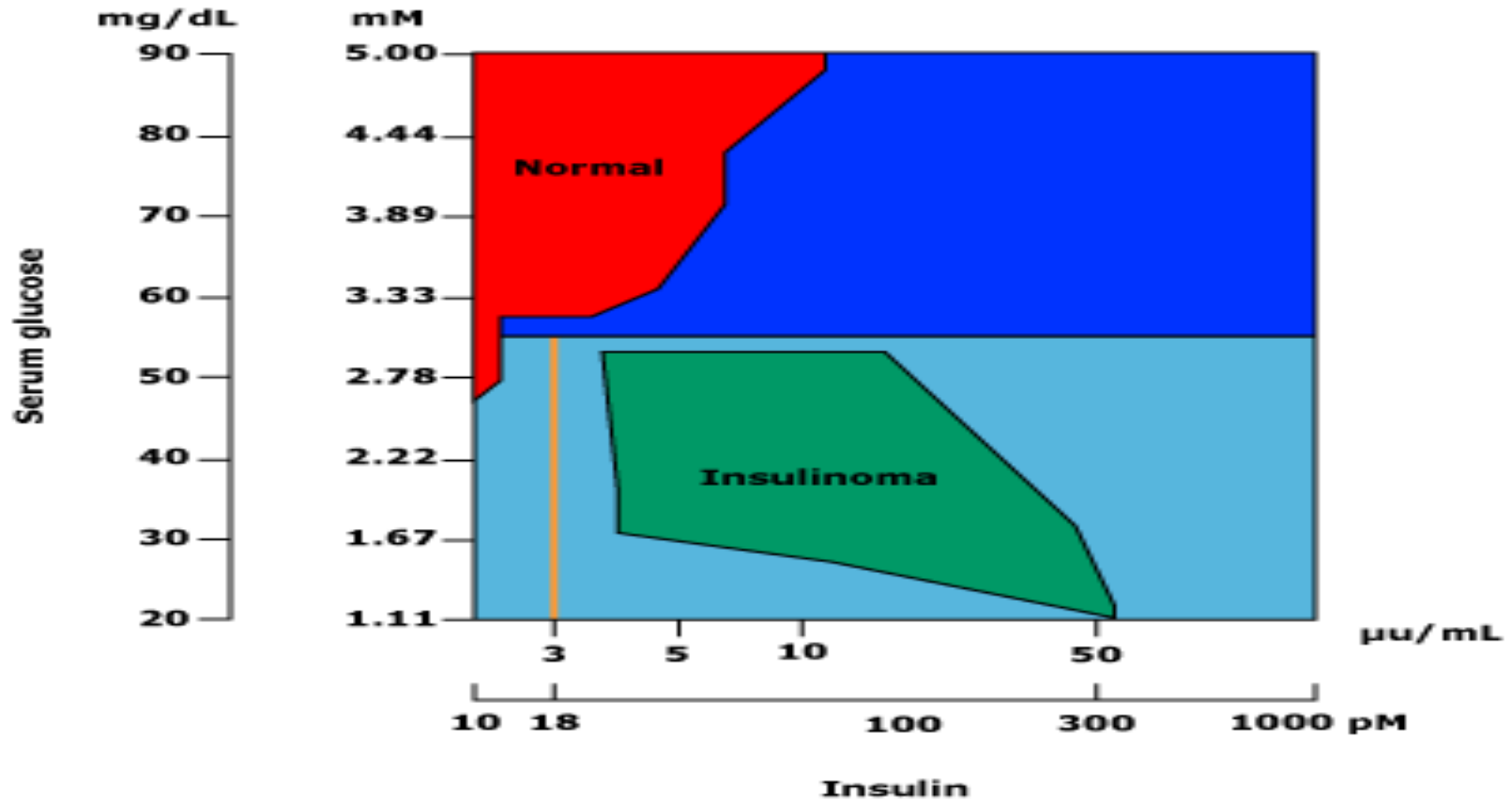
6. Accidental, surreptitious, or malicious hypoglycemia



Insulinoma – a few facts

- Clinical presentation
 - Hypoglycemic symptoms
 - Changed consciousness, blurred vision, amnesia, seizures, coma
 - Symptoms resulting from the ANS
 - Sweating, weakness, hunger, palpitations
 - Point of time complaints
 - 73% only after fast
 - 21% after fast and postprandial
 - 6% only postprandial
 - Weight gain in 18% of cases
- Diagnosis
 - Clinical suspicion hyperinsulinism: Whipple's triad
 1. Symptoms of hypoglycemia
 2. Plasma glucose level < 2.2 mmol/L (<40mg/dl) during symptoms;
 3. Relief of symptoms with administration of glucose

Insulinoma – final diagnosis

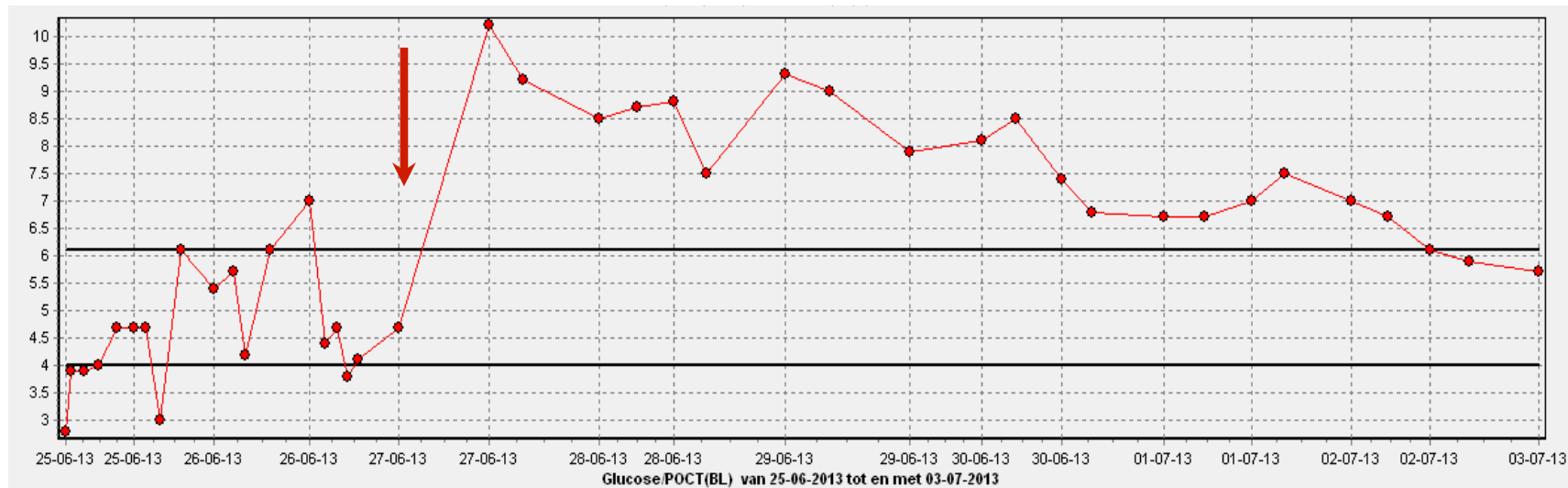


Insulinoma -treatment

- Avoid hypoglycemia: eat frequently
- Surgical therapy
 - Enucleation often possible
 - Rarely: Whipple, total pancreatectomy
- Medical therapy:
 - In inoperabel patients or non-resectable lesion
 - Diazoxide
 - Octreotide

Treatment Mr. J


- June 2013: Enucleation insulinoma. Solitary lesion.
 - PA: neuroendocrine tumor 1.7 cm



- Since enucleation no more attacks

Take home messages

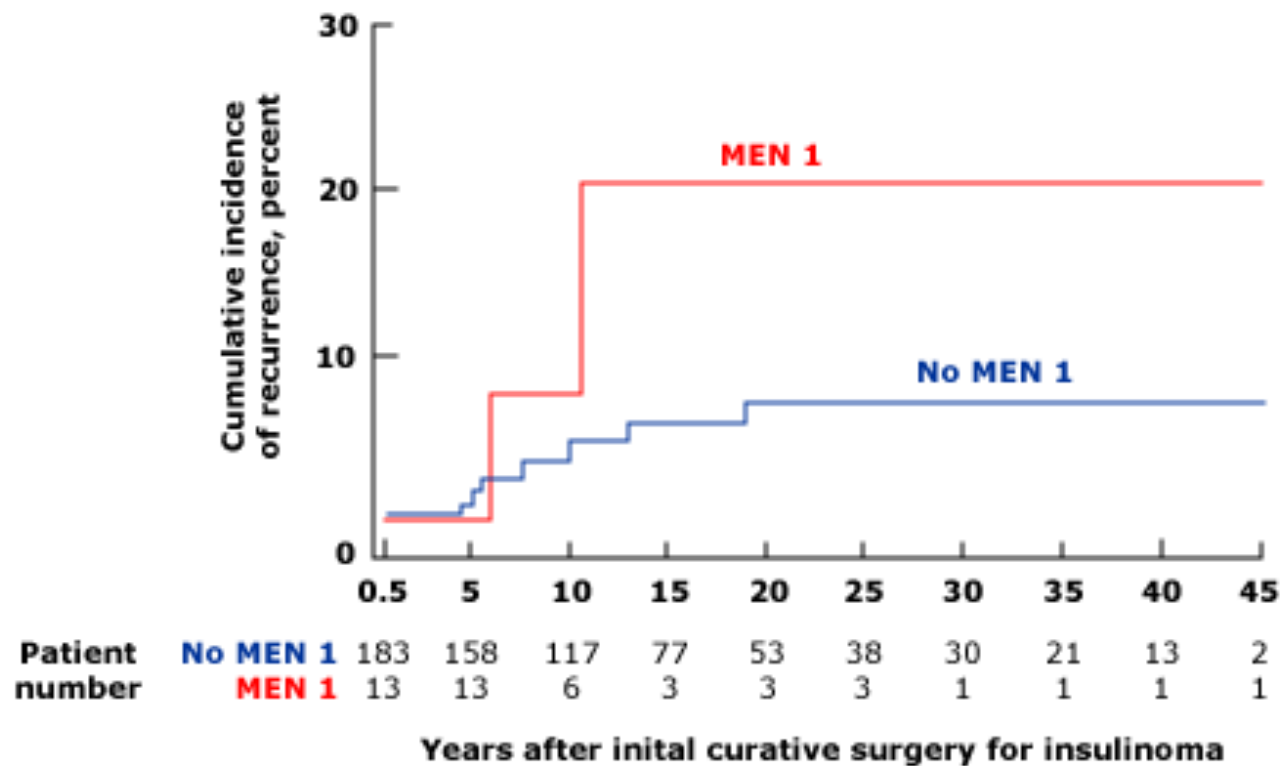


- Do not forget insulinoma as a cause of atypical attacks of impaired consciousness
 - Symptoms occasionally are not specific and insulinoma can mimic several pathological conditions
 - Not always a clear correlation with fast
- 



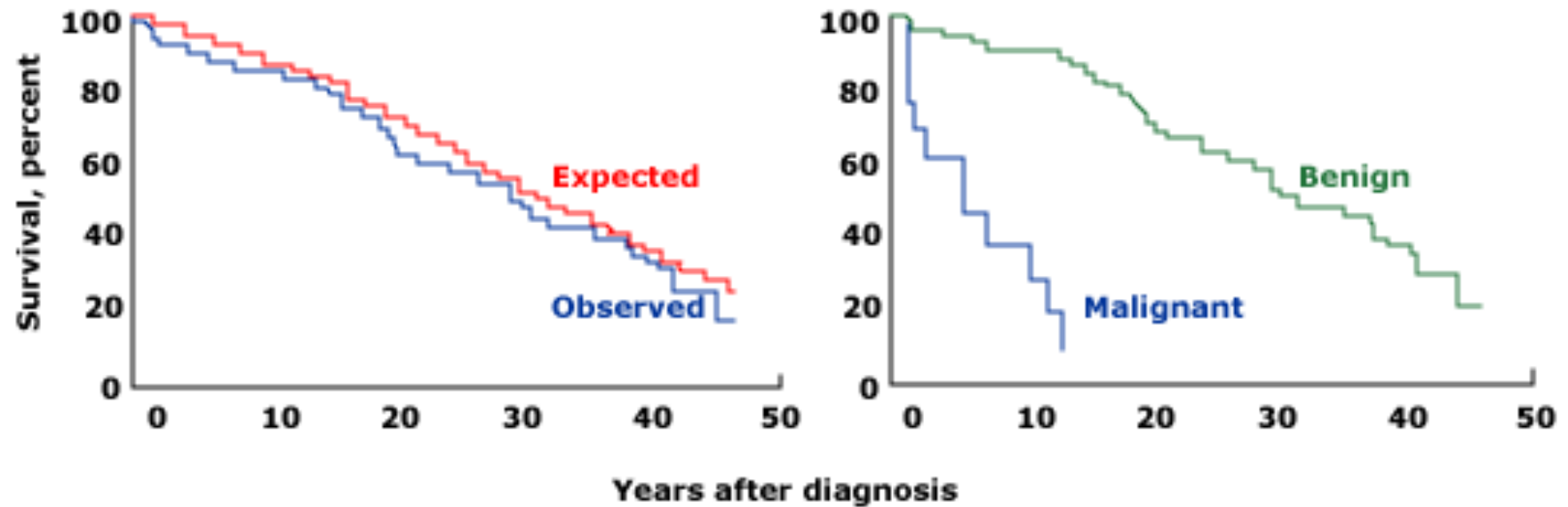
Insulinom

- Recidiefkans



Insulinom

- Overleving

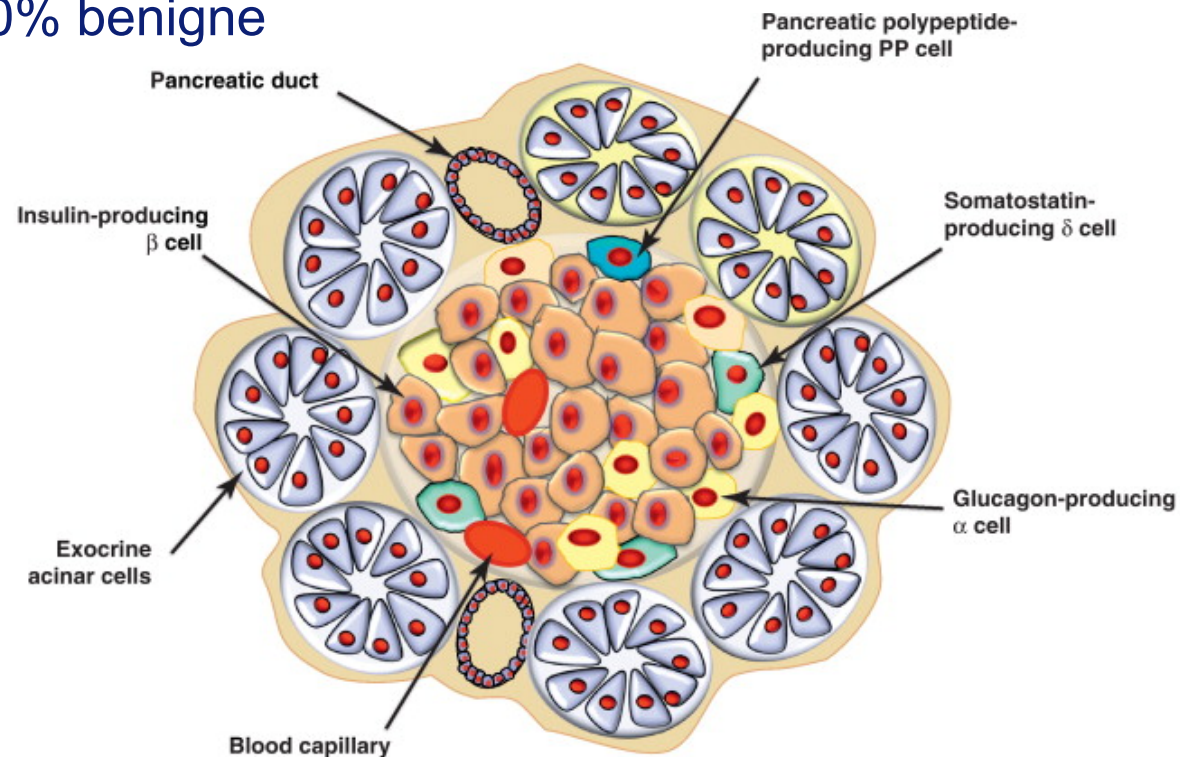


Mr. J

- Insulinoma?
- Atypical presentation?
 - No clear correlation between meals and attacks
 - No gain of weight
- Extremely long doctors delay?
 - Yet complaints since 15 months and treated for epilepsy

Insulinoma

- Neuro-endocrine tumor, rare
 - Uitgaande van β -cel in Eilandjes van Langerhans
 - > 90% benigne



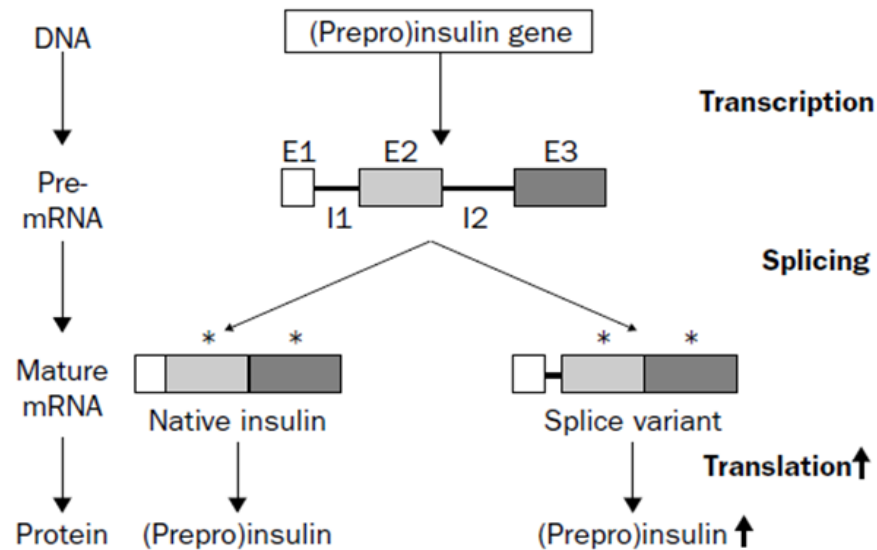
Insulinoom



- Geschatte incidentie 1-3 / miljoen per jaar
 - Mayo Clinic series: 237 patiënten in cohort 1987-2007
 - Mediane leeftijd 50 jr, 56% vrouw
 - Localisatie
 - 90% intrapancreatisch vs 10% extrapancreatisch
 - 90% solitair vs 10% multipele laesies
 - 5-10 % MEN-1 geassocieerd
 - Vaker maligne (tot 25%) en vaker multipele laesies
- 

Insulinoom

- Pathofysiologie
 - Ongecontroleerde insulineproductie ondanks hypoglycemie
 - Overexpressie splice-variant mRNA met efficiëntere translatie naar insuline



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Erasmus MC iU22 DyEC02 C5-1/Abd Gen

FR 28Hz

RS
Z 1.7

2D
45%
C 55
P Low
Gen

P

M2

VMS

AMS

RIP PR. UNC. P. KOP



Insulinoom

- Beeldvorming

Techniek	Sensitiviteit
Transabdominale echo	Grote variatie
CT	30-85%
MRI	85-95%
Endo-echografie	95%
Octreotidescan	45%
PET	laag