

*Injection Techniques Questionnaire (ITQ)  
WorldWide Results*

*2014-2015*

**Correct Site Rotation**



**BACKGROUND**



ELSEVIER  
MASSON

Available online at  
**SciVerse ScienceDirect**  
[www.sciencedirect.com](http://www.sciencedirect.com)

Elsevier Masson France  
**EM|consulte**  
[www.em-consulte.com/en](http://www.em-consulte.com/en)

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**& Diabetes**  
*Metabolism*

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*Diabetes & Metabolism* 39 (2013) 445–453

Original article

# Prevalence and risk factors of lipohypertrophy in insulin-injecting patients with diabetes

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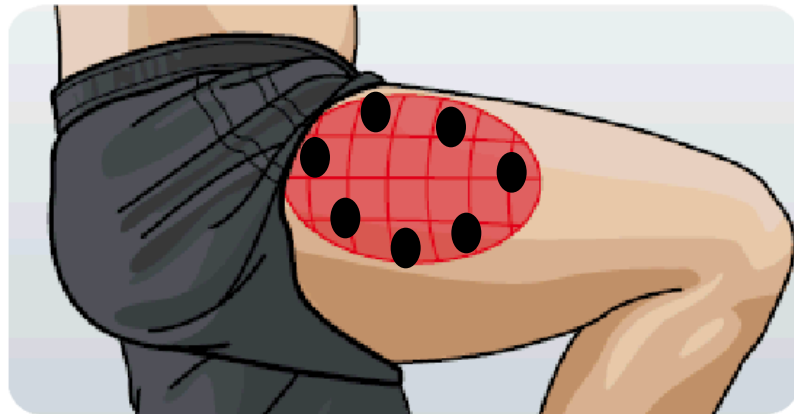
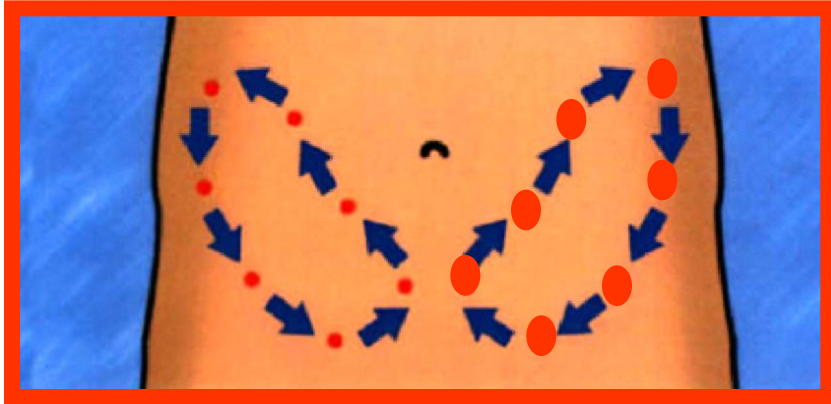
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Correct Rotation = at least 1 cm  
between successive injections



# Lipohypertrophy and Observed Correct Rotatio

|                | <b>Lipo</b> | <b>No Lipo</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|----------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|
| <b>Correct</b> | 6           | 100            | <b>106</b>   |
| <b>Not</b>     | 262         | 18             | <b>280</b>   |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>268</b>  | <b>118</b>     | <b>386</b>   |

p= 0.0001

# **DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS**

On nurse's inspection was the patient rotating sites? If so, was the rotation done correctly?\*

| Rotates? | N    | %           |
|----------|------|-------------|
| Yes      | 6889 | <b>83.9</b> |
| No       | 1318 | <b>16.1</b> |

| Correctly? | N    | %           |
|------------|------|-------------|
| Yes        | 5643 | <b>70.6</b> |
| No         | 2350 | <b>29.4</b> |

**\*Correct site rotation** is defined as always injecting at least 1 cm from a previous injection

# **COMPARATIVE STATISTICS**



# Is correct rotation associated with age category of respondent?

| Respondent                  | Correct rotation |       | Total  |
|-----------------------------|------------------|-------|--------|
|                             | Yes              | No    |        |
| <b>Adult</b>                | 4831             | 1930  | 6761   |
|                             | 71.5%            | 28.5% | 100.0% |
| <b>Adolescent</b>           | 298              | 149   | 447    |
|                             | 66.7%            | 33.3% | 100.0% |
| <b>Child</b>                | 139              | 72    | 211    |
|                             | 65.9%            | 34.1% | 100.0% |
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Party</b> | 130              | 73    | 203    |
|                             | 64.0%            | 36.0% | 100.0% |

**p = 0.007**

# Is Correct rotation associated with type of DM?

| DM type     | Correct rotation |       | Total  |
|-------------|------------------|-------|--------|
|             | Yes              | No    |        |
| <b>T1DM</b> | 1869             | 792   | 2661   |
|             | 70.2%            | 29.8% | 100.0% |
| <b>T2DM</b> | 3601             | 1519  | 5120   |
|             | 70.3%            | 29.7% | 100.0% |
| <b>GDM</b>  | 71               | 11    | 82     |
|             | 86.6%            | 13.4% | 100.0% |

**p = 0.921 between T1DM and T2DM**

# Is Correct rotation associated with type of device?

| Device       | Correct rotation |       | Total  |
|--------------|------------------|-------|--------|
|              | Yes              | No    |        |
| Syringe      | 709              | 345   | 1054   |
|              | 67.3%            | 32.7% | 100.0% |
| Pen          | 4391             | 1898  | 6289   |
|              | 69.8%            | 30.2% | 100.0% |
| Other (Pump) | 102              | 24    | 126    |
|              | 81.0%            | 19.0% | 100.0% |

**p = 0.551 between Syringe and Pen**

# Is correct rotation associated with type of insulin?

| Type of insulin              | Correct rotation |       | Total  |
|------------------------------|------------------|-------|--------|
|                              | Yes              | No    |        |
| <b>Rapid-acting human</b>    | 111              | 37    | 148    |
|                              | 75.0%            | 25.0% | 100.0% |
| <b>Fast-acting analogues</b> | 210              | 73    | 283    |
|                              | 74.2%            | 25.8% | 100.0% |
| <b>NPH</b>                   | 315              | 134   | 449    |
|                              | 70.2%            | 29.8% | 100.0% |
| <b>Basal analogues</b>       | 731              | 220   | 951    |
|                              | 76.9%            | 23.1% | 100.0% |
| <b>Premixes</b>              | 1031             | 478   | 1509   |
|                              | 68.3%            | 31.7% | 100.0% |

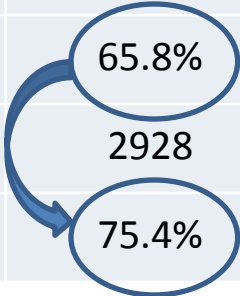
# Is correct rotation associated with age?

| Correct rotation | Mean Age | SD   | N    |
|------------------|----------|------|------|
| Yes              | 49.0     | 19.5 | 5599 |
| No               | 49.9     | 20.8 | 2337 |
| Total            | 49.3     | 19.9 | 7936 |

**p = 0.620**

# Is correct rotation associated with hyperglycemia?

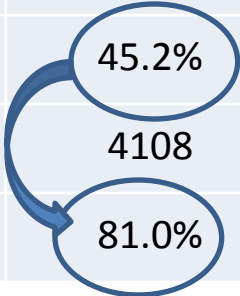
|        |     | Correct rotation |       | Total  |
|--------|-----|------------------|-------|--------|
|        |     | Yes              | No    |        |
| Hypers | Yes | 2530             | 1317  | 3847   |
|        | %   | 65.8%            | 34.2% | 100.0% |
|        | No  | 2928             | 957   | 3885   |
|        | %   | 75.4%            | 24.6% | 100.0% |



**p < 0.000**

# Is correct rotation associated with LH?

|    |     | Correct rotation |       | Total  |
|----|-----|------------------|-------|--------|
|    |     | Yes              | No    |        |
| LH | Yes | 1023             | 1238  | 2261   |
|    | %   | 45.2%            | 54.8% | 100.0% |
|    | No  | 4108             | 966   | 5074   |
|    | %   | 81.0%            | 19.0% | 100.0% |



**p < 0.000**

# Is correct rotation of sites associated with absence of LH?

|    |     | Correct Rotation |       |
|----|-----|------------------|-------|
|    |     | Yes              | No    |
| LH | Yes | 1023             | 1238  |
|    | %   | 45.2%            | 54.8% |
|    | No  | 4108             | 966   |
|    | %   | 81.0%            | 19.0% |

4-fold difference

$p < 0.000$



# Do some people who correctly rotate still get LH?

Yes, so there must be other factors at play

|    |     | Correct Rotation |       |
|----|-----|------------------|-------|
|    |     | Yes              | No    |
| LH | Yes | 1023             | 1238  |
|    | %   | 45.2%            | 54.8% |
|    | No  | 1008             | 966   |
|    | %   | 81.0%            | 19.0% |

**p < 0.000**

# Is there an association between LH and Reuse of pen needles as reported by patients?

| LH  | Reuses the Pen Needle |       |
|-----|-----------------------|-------|
|     | Yes                   | No    |
| Yes | 1144                  | 927   |
|     | 55.2%                 | 44.8% |
| No  | 2057                  | 2409  |
|     | 46.1%                 | 53.9% |

**p < 0.000**

# Is there an association between LH and Reuse of pen needles as reported by nurses?

| LH  | Reuses the Pen Needle |       |
|-----|-----------------------|-------|
|     | Yes                   | No    |
| Yes | 1306                  | 1013  |
|     | 56.3%                 | 43.7% |
| No  | 2395                  | 2824  |
|     | 45.9%                 | 54.1% |

**p < 0.000**

# Is LH associated with the number of times a needle is used?

| Times Needle Used | LH    |       |
|-------------------|-------|-------|
|                   | Yes   | No    |
| 2 times           | 346   | 675   |
|                   | 33.9% | 66.1% |
| 3 – 5 times       | 463   | 855   |
|                   | 35.1% | 64.9% |
| 6 – 10 times      | 177   | 334   |
|                   | 34.6% | 65.4% |
| > 10 times        | 195   | 250   |
|                   | 43.8% | 56.2% |
| <b>TOTAL</b>      | 1181  | 2114  |
|                   | 35.8% | 64.2% |

**p = 0.002**

Is the size of LH associated with the number of times a needle is used?

| Times Needle Used | Abdominal LH       |     |      |
|-------------------|--------------------|-----|------|
|                   | Mean Diameter (mm) | N   | SD   |
| 2 times           | 39.1               | 183 | 29.1 |
| 3 – 5 times       | 45.1               | 317 | 29.4 |
| 6 – 10 times      | 39.0               | 142 | 30.4 |
| > 10 times        | 54.0               | 131 | 40.6 |
| TOTAL             | 44.1               | 773 | 32.1 |

**p = 0.002**

Is the size of LH associated with the number of times a needle is used?

| Times Needle Used | Thigh LH           |     |      |
|-------------------|--------------------|-----|------|
|                   | Mean Diameter (mm) | N   | SD   |
| 2 times           | 34.6               | 65  | 25.5 |
| 3 – 5 times       | 42.5               | 112 | 34.9 |
| 6 – 10 times      | 45.3               | 43  | 41.7 |
| > 10 times        | 54.8               | 32  | 53.4 |
| TOTAL             | 42.5               | 252 | 37.2 |

**p = 0.002**

# Is LH associated with sub-optimal site rotation?

| Rotation Practices   | Lipohypertrophy |               |
|--|-----------------|---------------|
|  | Yes             | No            |
| I move back and forth from right side of my body to left     | 523<br>32.5%    | 1084<br>67.5% |
| I move from one injection site to another                    | 521<br>36.2%    | 918<br>63.8%  |
| I inject a finger's breadth (1 cm) from previously injection | 257<br>23.0%    | 861<br>77.0%  |
| My injections describe a circle around my injection sites    | 149<br>31.4%    | 326<br>68.6%  |
| My injections describe lines across my injection sites       | 54<br>24.2%     | 169<br>75.8%  |

**p < 0.000**

# What is the weight of association with LH for each of these factors?

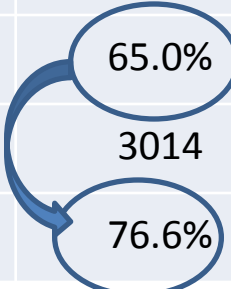
| Coefficients <sup>a</sup> |                    |                             |            |                           |         |      |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|------------|---------------------------|---------|------|
| Linear Regression Model   |                    | Unstandardized Coefficients |            | Standardized Coefficients | t       | Sig. |
|                           |                    | B                           | Std. Error | Beta                      |         |      |
| 1                         | (Constant)         | 2.157                       | .026       |                           | 81.477  | .000 |
|                           | Incorrect Rotation | -.349                       | .013       | -.341                     | -27.881 | .000 |
|                           | Needle Reuse       | .026                        | .011       | .028                      | 2.272   | .023 |
|                           | Years on Insulin   | -.008                       | .001       | -.146                     | -11.987 | .000 |

a. Dependent Variable: Presence or not of LH



# Is correct rotation associated with reuse of needles?

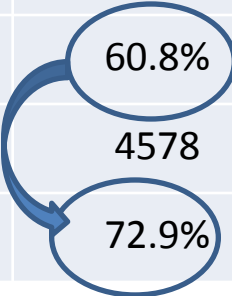
|       |     | Correct rotation |       | Total  |
|-------|-----|------------------|-------|--------|
|       |     | Yes              | No    |        |
| Reuse | Yes | 2561             | 1379  | 3940   |
|       | %   | 65.0%            | 35.0% | 100.0% |
|       | No  | 3014             | 919   | 3933   |
|       | %   | 76.6%            | 23.4% | 100.0% |



**p < 0.000**

# Is correct rotation associated with unexplained hypos?


|                   |     | Correct rotation |       | Total  |
|-------------------|-----|------------------|-------|--------|
|                   |     | Yes              | No    |        |
| Unexplained hypos | Yes | 910              | 586   | 1496   |
|                   | %   | 60.8%            | 39.2% | 100.0% |
|                   | No  | 4578             | 1704  | 6282   |
|                   | %   | 72.9%            | 27.1% | 100.0% |



**p < 0.000**

# Are Unexplained Hypos associated with correct rotation?

|                  |     | Unexpected Hypos |       |
|------------------|-----|------------------|-------|
|                  |     | Yes              | No    |
| Correct Rotation | Yes | 910              | 4578  |
|                  | %   | 16.6%            | 83.4% |
| No               | Yes | 586              | 1704  |
|                  | %   | 25.6%            | 74.4% |

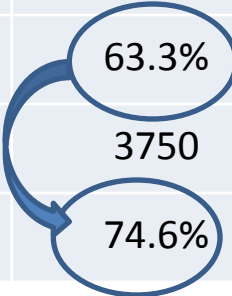


**Greatly  
reduces the  
risk**

**p < 0.000**

# Is correct rotation associated with glucose variability?


|                     |     | Correct rotation |       | Total  |
|---------------------|-----|------------------|-------|--------|
|                     |     | Yes              | No    |        |
| Glucose variability | Yes | 1732             | 1006  | 2738   |
|                     | %   | 63.3%            | 36.7% | 100.0% |
|                     | No  | 3750             | 1277  | 5027   |
|                     | %   | 74.6%            | 25.4% | 100.0% |



**p < 0.000**

# Is Glycemic Variability associated with Correct Rotation?

|                  |     | Glucose Variability |       |
|------------------|-----|---------------------|-------|
|                  |     | Yes                 | No    |
| Correct Rotation | Yes | 1732                | 3750  |
|                  | %   | 31.6%               | 68.4% |
| No               | No  | 1006                | 1277  |
|                  | %   | 44.1%               | 55.9% |



**Significantly  
reduces the  
risk**

**p < 0.000**

# Is HbA1c associated with correct rotation?

| Correct Rotation | Mean HbA1c | N    | SD    |
|------------------|------------|------|-------|
| Yes              | 8.28       | 5187 | 1.787 |
| No               | 8.85       | 2123 | 2.012 |
| Total            | 8.44       | 7310 | 1.873 |

$\Delta = 0.53$

$p < 0.000$

# Is correct rotation associated with TDD of insulin?

| Appropriate rotation | Mean TDD | SD   | N    |
|----------------------|----------|------|------|
| Yes                  | 47.2     | 31.8 | 5220 |
| No                   | 51.9     | 33.1 | 2164 |
| Total                | 48.6     | 32.3 | 7384 |

$\Delta = 4.7$  IU

$p < 0.000$

# Is Needle Length associated with correct rotation?

|                  |     | Needle Length |       |       |       |
|------------------|-----|---------------|-------|-------|-------|
|                  |     | 4             | 8     | 6     | 8     |
| Correct Rotation | Yes | 1625          | 1084  | 1084  | 1290  |
|                  | %   | 76.3%         | 71.1% | 71.6% | 63.9% |
|                  | No  | 504           | 440   | 430   | 728   |
|                  | %   | 23.7%         | 28.9% | 28.4% | 36.1% |

**?More adherent with 4 mm,  $p < 0.000$**




# Is Needle Gauge associated with Correct Rotation?

|                  |     | Needle Gauge |       |       |       |
|------------------|-----|--------------|-------|-------|-------|
|                  |     | 29           | 30    | 31    | 32    |
| Correct Rotation | Yes | 85           | 496   | 1818  | 1459  |
|                  | %   | 52.1%        | 68.7% | 70.0% | 73.9% |
|                  | No  | 78           | 226   | 778   | 514   |
|                  | %   | 47.9%        | 31.3% | 30.0% | 26.1% |

**p < 0.000**

# Is frequency of checking injection sites associated with Correct Rotation?


| Correct Rotation | Frequency of Checking Sites |        |             |       |
|------------------|-----------------------------|--------|-------------|-------|
|                  | Routinely                   | Yearly | 'As Needed' | Never |
| Yes              | 77.9%                       | 70.9%  | 67.2%       | 63.2% |
| No               | 22.1%                       | 29.1%  | 32.8%       | 36.8% |



**p < 0.000**

# Is Timing of Latest Instruction associated with Correct Rotation?

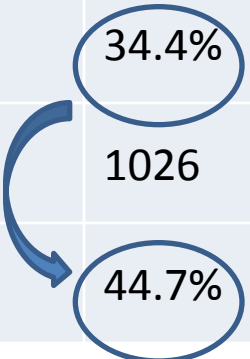
| Correct Rotation | Last time received/reviewed instructions on injections |             |           |            |       |
|------------------|--|-------------|-----------|------------|-------|
|                  | Last 6 months  | 6-12 months | 1-5 years | 6-10 years | Never |
| Yes              | 75.5%  | 72.8%       | 65.1%     | 61.9%      | 61.3% |
| No               | 24.5%  | 27.2%       | 34.9%     | 38.1%      | 38.7% |



**p < 0.000**

# Is there an association between leakage and correct rotation?

|                  |     | Leakage |       | Total  |
|------------------|-----|---------|-------|--------|
|                  |     | Yes     | No    |        |
| Correct rotation | Yes | 1901    | 3620  | 5521   |
|                  | %   | 34.4%   | 65.6% | 100.0% |
|                  | No  | 1026    | 1269  | 2295   |
|                  | %   | 44.7%   | 55.3% | 100.0% |



**p < 0.000**

# Is less pain associated with correct rotation?

|                  |     | Pain  |       |
|------------------|-----|-------|-------|
|                  |     | Yes   | No    |
| Correct Rotation | Yes | 2495  | 2679  |
|                  | %   | 48.2% | 51.8% |
|                  | No  | 1177  | 891   |
|                  | %   | 56.9% | 43.1% |

**p < 0.000**

# Conclusions (1)

- 5 out of 6 injectors claim to rotate injection sites. Of these, 2/3 were found by nurses to be rotating correctly.
- Those who rotate correctly tend to have
  - Less hyperglycemia
  - Lower HbA1c
  - Less LH
  - Less Unexplained Hyperglycemia
  - Less Glucose Variability
  - Lower TDD insulin

# Conclusions (2)

- Risk factors for LH are:
  - Incorrect rotation of injection sites
  - Using smaller injecting zones
  - More years on insulin and
  - Reusing pen needles.
- By Linear Regression analysis, incorrect rotation and years on insulin are the most important factors associated with LH ( $p < 0.001$ ), while pen needle reuse is significantly, but slightly less strongly associated ( $p = 0.023$ ).
- HbA1c values are approximately 0.5 higher in injectors with LH (in both T1DM and T2DM) and are significantly higher with incorrect rotation of sites.

# Conclusions (3)

- The frequency of unexpected hypoglycemia and glucose variability are significantly higher with LH, with injecting into LH and with incorrect rotation of sites.
- Checking sites routinely is associated with lower HbA1c levels, less LH and more correct rotation.
- Patients are also more likely to rotate correctly if they have received injection instruction in the last 6 months.



# Conclusions (4)

- Lower TDD of insulin is associated with correct rotation of injections.
- Correct rotation seems to increase in frequency
  - As the needle shortens
  - As the gauge thins
  - As the site inspection and injection training become more routine.