



## RECENT STATUS ON CARBOHYDRATE METABOLIZING ENZYME INHIBITORS IN REGULATION OF DIABETES: A MECHANISM BASED REVIEW

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The important therapeutic approach for treating type 2 diabetes mellitus is to decrease the post-prandial glucose levels which could be done by decreasing the absorption of glucose through the inhibition of the carbohydrates-hydrolyzing enzymes such as  $\alpha$ -amylase and  $\alpha$ -glucosidase present in the small intestinal brush border that are responsible for the breakdown of oligosaccharides and disaccharides into monosaccharides and suitable for absorption. Inhibition of  $\alpha$ -amylase generally considered as strategy for the treatment of disorders in carbohydrate uptake, such as diabetes and obesity. Among the marketed allopathic preparations carbohydrates-hydrolyzing enzymes Inhibitors like acarbose, voglibose etc delay carbohydrate digestion and prolong overall carbohydrate digestion time, causing a reduction in the rate of glucose absorption and consequently blunting the postprandial plasma glucose rise. Some of the plants are also considered as an important source of chemical constituent with potential for inhibition of  $\alpha$ -amylase and can be used as therapeutic purposes. In this review our efforts have been devoted to explore the mechanism based carbohydrates-hydrolyzing enzymes Inhibitors for the regulation of diabetes.

Keywords:  $\alpha$ - Glucosidase,  $\alpha$ -amylase, Sucrase, Maltase, Diabetes

### INTRODUCTION

Enzymes are biological catalysts which are important in digestion and for other biological reactions. Luminal digestion is mainly due to enzymes secreted by salivary glands, stomach and pancreas. Chemical degradation of food also occurs by hydrolytic enzymes present in the brush border of small intestine termed as membrane digestion.<sup>[1,2,3]</sup> The source and sites of various luminal and membrane bound digestive enzymes are illustrated in Fig. 1<sup>[5]</sup>

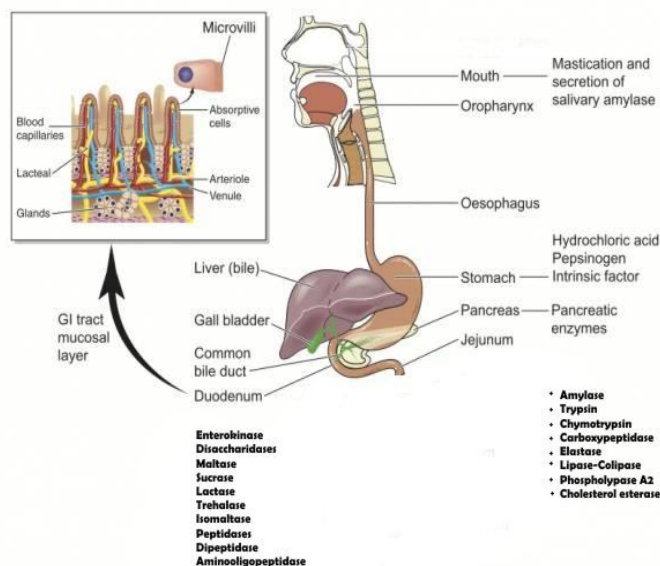


Fig. 1 Luminal and membrane bound digestive enzymes are illustrated

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### METABOLISM OF CARBOHYDRATES

#### Distribution of glucose after a meal<sup>[5,6]</sup>

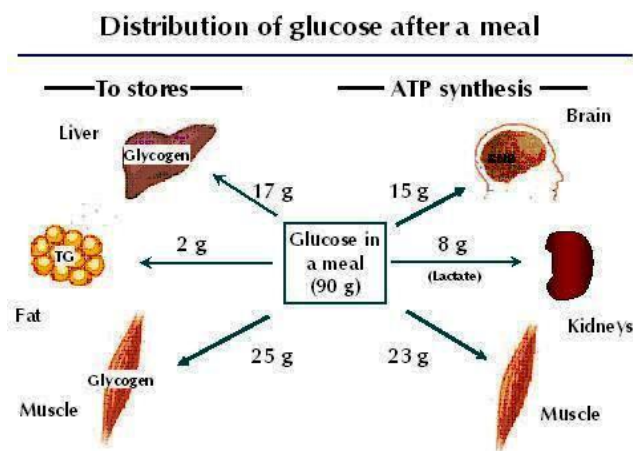


Fig. 2 Distribution of glucose after a meal

### Carbohydrate digestion

Starch is composed of amylose, which is a linear alpha-1,4-linked glucose polymer, and highly branched amylopectin consisting of linear alpha-1,4-linked glucose chains with alpha-1,6-linked branch chains. Salivary and pancreatic alpha-amylases catalyze the endo-hydrolysis of alpha-1,4-glucosidic linkages releasing mainly maltose, maltotriose and related alpha-1,6-oligomers. Further digestion takes place in the small intestinal brush border by alpha-glucosidases, which hydrolyze the terminal alpha-1,4-linked glucose residues as the final step in the digestion of dietary carbohydrates to release glucose. The alpha-glucosidase activities, first described as maltases, are associated with maltase-glucoamylase and sucrase-isomaltase.

In addition to alpha-1,4-glycosidic activity, sucrase-isomaltase displays specific activities against the alpha-1,2 linkages of sucrose and alpha-1,6 linkages of is maltose.<sup>[7,8]</sup>

### Digestion in Mouth

Digestion of carbohydrates starts at the mouth, where they come in contact with saliva during mastication. Saliva contains a carbohydrate splitting enzyme called salivary amylase (ptyalin).<sup>[9,10]</sup>

#### Action of ptyalin (salivary amylase)

It is  $\alpha$  - amylase, requires Cl<sup>-</sup> ion for activation and optimum pH 6-7. The enzyme hydrolyzes  $\alpha$ -(1,4) glycosidic linkage at random, from molecules like starch, glycogen and dextrans, producing smaller molecules maltose, glucose and disaccharides maltotriose. Ptyalin action stops in stomach when pH falls to 3.0<sup>[10,11]</sup>

#### $\alpha$ -Amylase

Starch or glycogen  $\longrightarrow$  Glucose, Maltose, Maltotriose

### Digestion in Stomach

No carbohydrate splitting enzymes are available in gastric juice. HCl may hydrolyze some dietary sucrose to equal amounts of glucose and fructose.

### Digestion in Duodenum

Food reaches the duodenum from stomach where it meets the pancreatic juice. Pancreatic juice contains a carbohydrate-splitting enzyme pancreatic amylase.

#### Action of pancreatic Amylase

It is also an  $\alpha$  - amylase, optimum pH 7.1. Like ptyalin it also requires Cl<sup>-</sup> for activity. The enzyme hydrolyzes  $\alpha$ -(1,4) glycosidic linkage situated well inside polysaccharide molecule. Other criteria and end products of action are similar of ptyalin.<sup>[10,11]</sup>

### Digestion in Small Intestine

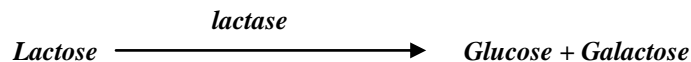
Action of Intestinal Juice

#### Pancreatic amylase

It hydrolyzes terminal  $\alpha$ -(1-4), glycosidic linkage in polysaccharides and Oligosaccharide molecules liberating free glucose molecules.

#### Lactase

It is a  $\beta$ - glycosidase, its pH range is 5.4 to 6.0. Lactose is hydrolyzed to glucose and galactose.



#### Maltase

The enzyme hydrolyzes the  $\alpha$  -(1,4) glycosidic linkage between glucose units in maltose molecule liberating two glucose molecules. Its pH range is 5.8 to 6.2. <sup>[11]</sup>



#### Sucrase

PH ranges 5.0 to 7.0. It hydrolyzes sucrose molecule to form glucose and fructose.<sup>[11]</sup>



### INSULIN

Insulin is a protein hormone secreted by  $\beta$ -cells of Islets of Langerhans of pancreas.<sup>[12]</sup>

#### Chemistry

- Insulin 51 amino acids in an insulin molecule.
- They are two chain Polypeptide .
  - Chain A-has-21 amino acids,
  - Chain B-had-30 amino acids.
- Both chains are connected by Disulphide Bridge.
- Half life of insulin - 4-6 minutes.<sup>[12,13,14]</sup>

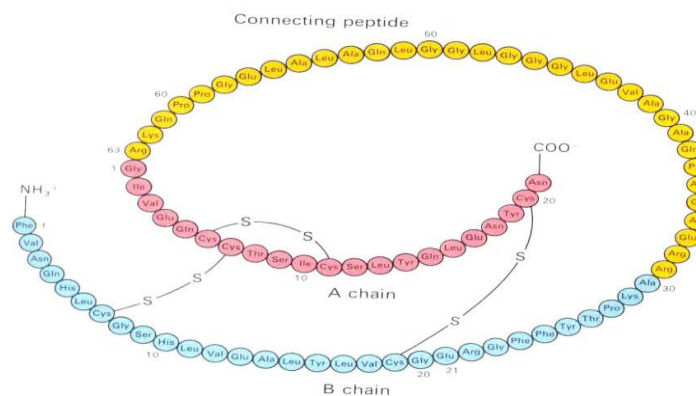


Fig. 3 Structure of Insulin

C peptide=31-65, A chain=66-86, B chain=1-30

#### Metabolic Role of Insulin

**Carbohydrate metabolism:** Insulin produces lowering of blood glucose and increases glycogen stores. This is achieved at several metabolic stages.

- There is increased uptake of glucose, galactose by various tissues like muscles, adipose, mammary glands etc .It is due to increased translocation of glucose transporters from Golgi to plasma membrane.
- Insulin induces the synthesis of glucokinase which phosphorylates and decreases the intracellular glucose in liver.
- Insulin enhances glycolysis by inducing the synthesis of phosphofructokinase and pyruvate kinase.
- Pyruvate dehydrogenase complex is activated via dephosphorylation of enzyme molecules which lead to increased production of acetyl- CoA from pyruvate.

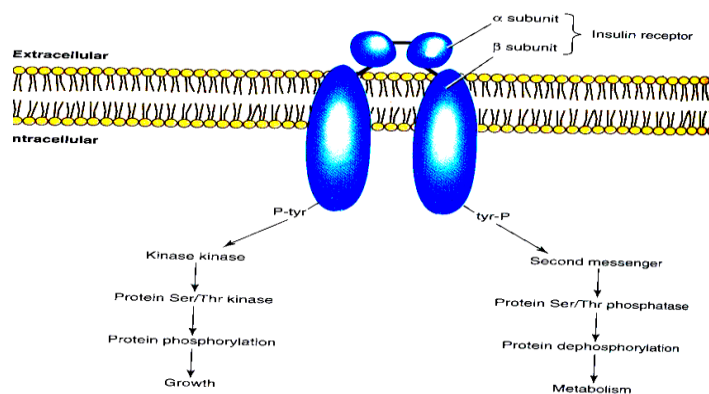


Fig. 4 Paradoxical action of insulin

- Insulin stimulates protein phosphatase-1 which dephosphorylates and activates key enzyme glycogen synthase. This leads to increased synthesis of glycogen.
- Insulin reduces gluconeogenesis by repressing at gene level, PEP (Phosphoenol pyruvate) carboxykinase, and it inhibits F-1, 6 biphosphatase via F- 2, 6 bis phosphatase inhibition.
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- Insulin decreases glycogenolysis by dephosphorylating glycogen phosphorylase (inactivate) and also repressing glucose - 6phosphatase.
- It stimulates HMPshunt by inducing the enzymes glucose-6 phosphate dehydrogenase, 6-phosphogluconate dehydrogenase. [13,14,15]

Disorders of carbohydrate uptake may cause severe health problems such as diabetes and obesity<sup>[17]</sup>. Diabetes mellitus (DM) is a metabolic disorder resulting from deficiency in insulin secretion, insulin action, or both, promoting disturbance of carbohydrate, fat and protein metabolism<sup>[18]</sup>. Long term complications of diabetes mellitus include retinopathy, nephropathy, neuropathy, microangiopathy and increased risk of cardiovascular disease<sup>[19,20]</sup>. Therefore a therapeutic approach to treat diabetes is to decrease postprandial hyperglycemia. This can be achieved by the inhibition of carbohydrate hydrolyzing enzymes like alpha amylase and alpha glucosidase. Alpha glucosidase and alpha amylase are the important enzymes involved in the digestion of carbohydrates.

Alpha amylase is involved in the breakdown of long chain carbohydrates and alpha glucosidase breaks down starch and disaccharides to glucose. They serve as the major digestive enzymes and help in intestinal absorption. Alpha amylase and alpha glucosidase inhibitors are the potential targets in the development of lead compounds for the treatment of diabetes. [16 ,22,23]

The drugs commonly used in the treatment of diabetes such as, sulfonylureas, biguanide, glucosidase inhibitors, aldose reductase inhibitor, thiazolidinediones, carbamoylmethyl benzoic acid, insulin-like growth factor. They are used for treating type 2 diabetes mellitus is to decrease the post-prandial glucose levels [23,24]. This could be done by retarding the absorption of glucose through the inhibition of the carbohydrates-hydrolysing enzymes, alpha- glucosidase and alpha-amylase, present in the small intestinal brush border that are responsible for the breakdown of oligosaccharides and disaccharides into monosaccharide's suitable for absorption. Inhibitors of these enzymes, like acarbose, delay carbohydrate digestion and prolong overall carbohydrate digestion time causing a reduction in the rate of glucose absorption and consequently blunting the postprandial plasma glucose rise [16, 20,25].

#### IN-VITRO MODELS USED IN DIABETIC RESEARCH:

Inhibition Of Carbohydrate Digesting Enzymes Are:

- ✓ Alpha-amylase
- ✓ Alpha-glucosidase
- ✓ Sucrase
- ✓ Maltase

**ALPHA -AMYLASE ENZYME METHOD****METHOD – A:**<sup>[27,28]</sup>

Mixture prepare containing 200ul of 0.02 M sodium phosphate buffer (Ph- 6.9), 20ul of enzyme



Test sample prepare with five different concentration (20-100µg/ml)



200ul of 1% (w/v) starch solution prepare



Incubated for 10 min. at room temperature



Addition 200µl of starch solution in all test tubes



The reaction was terminated with the addition of 400µl -3, 5 Dinitro salicylic acid (DNS) reagent



Boling water bath for 5 min, cooled and diluted with 15 ml of distilled water



Absorbance between control sample (without extract) and test sample measured at 540nm.

The inhibition is calculated according to the formula

$$\text{Inhibition (\%)} = \frac{\text{Abs 540 (control)} - \text{Abs 540 (drug sample)}}{\text{Abs 540 (control)}} \times 100$$

**METHOD – B:**<sup>[27]</sup>**EXTRACTION OF WHEAT ALPHA AMYLASE**

500g of malted whole wheat flour was added slowly with stirring to 1 litre of 0.2% calcium acetate solution at room temperature and continuously stirred for 2 hours on a stirrer. The suspension was stored at 2°C to 3°C prior to heat treatment. Since beta-amylase interferes with the enzymatic determination of alpha-amylase it was inactivated by heating the extract at 70°C for 15 minutes. Alpha-amylase is resistant to inactivation by this treatment at pH between 6.5 and 8.0. the pH of the extract was first adjusted to 6.6 was cold 4% ammonium hydroxide. Heat treatment was carried out at 85°C to 90°C and other at 72°C to 74°C using a water bath with continuous stirring. The extract was then cooled to 2°C to 3°C until use.

**DETERMINATION OF WHEAT ALPHA-AMYLASE INHIBITOR ACTIVITY:**

200µl of 0.02 M sodium phosphate buffer, 20µl of enzyme and the plant extracts in concentration range 20-100µg/ml



Incubated for 10 minutes room temperature



Addition of 200µl of starch in all test tubes



The reaction was terminated



The addition of 400µl DNS reagent



Heated on boiling water bath for 5 min



Cooled and diluted with 15 ml of distilled water



Absorbance was measured at 540 nm



$$\text{Inhibition (\%)} = \frac{\text{Abs 540 (control)} - \text{Abs 540 (drug sample)}}{\text{Abs 540 (control)}} \times 100$$

The IC<sub>50</sub> values were determined from plots of percent inhibition versus log inhibitor concentration and were calculated by linear regression analysis from the mean inhibitory values. Acarbose was used as the reference alpha-amylase inhibitor. All tests were performed in triplicate.

**METHOD – C:**<sup>[31,35]</sup>**PORCINE PANCREATIC ALPHA-AMYLASE INHIBITION**

Starch azure (2 mg) was suspended in a tube containing 0.2 mL of 0.5 M Tris-HCl buffer (pH 6.9) containing 0.01 M calcium chloride (substrate)



The tubes were boiled for 5 min and then preincubated at 37°C for 5 min



1 mL of 0.1 % of dimethyl sulfoxide was used to dissolve 1 mg of isolated fraction in order to obtain concentration of 20, 40, 60, 80 and 100 µg/mL



Then 0.2 mL of isolated fraction of a particular concentration was added in the tube containing the substrate solution



0.1 mL of porcine pancreatic amylase in Tris-HCl buffer (2 unit/mL) was added to the tube containing the isolated fraction and substrate solution and all the processes were carried out at 37°C for 10 min



The reaction was stopped by adding 0.5 mL of 50% acetic acid in each tube



The reaction mixture was then centrifuged at 3000 rpm for 5 min and the absorbance of the resulting supernatant was measured at 595 nm spectrometrically.



$$\text{The alpha-amylase inhibitory activity} = \frac{(\text{Ac}^+) - (\text{Ac}^-) - (\text{As} - \text{Ab})}{(\text{Ac}^+) - (\text{Ac}^-)} \times 100$$



Where  $A_c^+$  is absorbance of 100% enzyme activity (only solvent with enzyme),  $A_c^-$  is absorbance of 0% enzyme activity (only solvent without enzyme),  $A_s$  is absorbance of test sample (with enzyme), and  $A_b$  is absorbance of blank (a test sample without enzyme), respectively.

## ALPHA-GLUCOSIDASE ENZYME METHOD

### METHOD – A:<sup>[31]</sup>

Enzyme solution was prepared by dissolving 0.5 mg  $\alpha$ -glycosidase in 10 ml phosphate buffer (ph 7.0)

Containing  
20 mg bovine serum albumin  
Further diluted just before use  
1:10 with phosphate buffer

Sample solutions were prepared by dissolving 4 mg sample in 400  $\mu$ l dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) and (DMSO) (sample blank)

Five concentrations: 50, 100, 150, 200, and 250  $\mu$ g/ml were prepared  
5  $\mu$ l each of the sample solutions and DMSO (sample blank)

Added  
P-nitrophenyl- $\alpha$ -D –glucopyranoside with phosphate buffer (pH 7.0)

Incubated condition at 37°C for 15 min. store

After 15 min. reaction was then stopped

Addition  
Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (1000  $\mu$ l) solution

P-nitrophenol released

Measured  
Absorbance of sample against a sample blank

Using  
400 nm UV visible spectrophotometer

The inhibition activity were calculated according to the formula

$$(\%) \text{ Inhibition} = \frac{EC - (ET - EC)}{EC} \times 100$$

### METHOD – B:<sup>[32,36]</sup>

200  $\mu$ l of alpha-glucosidase enzyme solution was pre-incubated with different concentration of test and standard drug solution for 5 min

Adding  
200  $\mu$ l of 37 mM sucrose to all the tubes

All tubes were incubated for 30 min 37°C to allow enzymatic action as well as drug action

Heating at 100°C for 10 min  
The liberated glucose was determined by glucose oxidase-peroxidase (GOD-POD) method at 546 nm and by calculating with relative blank controls

The alpha-glucosidase inhibitory activity of the test drug was calculated as follow;

$$\% \text{ alpha-glucosidase inhibition} = \frac{\text{Absorbance (blank)} - \text{Absorbance (test/standard)} \times 100}{\text{Absorbance (blank)}}$$

### METHOD –C:<sup>[27]</sup>

## DETERMINATION OF YEAST ALPHA-GLUCOSIDASE INHIBITOR ACTIVITY:

P-Nitrophenyl-alpha-D-glucopyranoside, Acarbose, Baker's Yeast alpha glucosidase were purchased from Sigma (USA)

The yeast alpha glucosidase was dissolved in 100 mM phosphate buffer pH 6.8 as

Used  
The enzyme extract P-Nitrophenyl-alpha-D-glucoside was used as the substrate

Plant extract were used in the concentration ranging from 20-100  $\mu$ g/ml

Different concentration of plant extract were mixed with 320  $\mu$ l of 100 mM phosphate  
Read at 410 nm

The control samples were prepared without any plant extract

The % inhibition was calculated according to the formula

$$\text{Inhibition (\%)} = \frac{\text{Abs 410 (control)} - \text{Abs 410 (extract)} \times 100}{\text{Abs 410 (control)}}$$

### SUCRASE ENZYME METHOD<sup>[34]</sup>

Mixture containing 200 $\mu$ l of 0.02 M of (Ph-6.9) sodium phosphate buffer 20  $\mu$ l of enzyme solution and different concentration (20-100 $\mu$ g/ml) test sample prepare

Incubated for 10 min. at room temperature

Addition of 200  $\mu$ L of starch in all test tubes

The enzyme reaction started by addition 100  $\mu$ l of starch solution in all test tubes

After 30 min.

The reaction was terminated with the addition of 400 $\mu$ l -3,5 Dinitro salicylic acid (DNS) reagent

Treated the mixture placed in a boiling water bath for 5 min, cool and diluted with 15 ml of distilled water.

The absorbance were measured at 540nm control sample (without sample) and test sample (with sample)

The inhibition activity were calculated according to the formula

$$\text{Inhibition (\%)} = \frac{\text{Abs (control)} - \text{Abs (drug sample)} \times 100}{\text{Abs (control)}}$$

### MALTASE ENZYME METHOD<sup>[35]</sup>

0.5 ml of 25 mM maltose in 0.1 M potassium phosphate buffer (PH 7)

Mixed

0.1 ml of the MCG at different concentrations (1.25-10mg/ml in DMSO).

Crude rat intestinal alpha glucosidase solution equivalent to 0.5 mg of protein

Added

After incubation at 37°C for 3 minutes.

After thoroughly mixing the  
Sample and blank tubes were incubated at 37°C for 15 minutes and then action was stopped by adding 200 $\mu$ L of 2 M Tris-HCL buffer (pH 6.9).

The amount of liberated glucose was determined by the glucose oxidase method using a commercial reagent kit by Merck Ltd. Simultaneously, a control test with only DMSO was carried out.

$$\% \text{ Rat intestinal maltase inhibitory activity} = \frac{(\text{OD Control} - \text{OD Sample})}{\text{OD Control}} \times 100$$

## CONCLUSION

The present review has provides information of various In-vitro studies used in antidiabetic assessment which can establish a mechanism for the antidiabetic activity of drug. In conclusion, more research is required for developing a potential and valuable anti diabetic therapies using alpha amylase alpha glucosidase inhibitors of plant origin and intensive studies of the mechanism of action of the known drug have provide further validation of several new molecular drug targets.

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Received	14 <sup>th</sup> January 2015
Revised	21 <sup>st</sup> January 2015
Accepted	29 <sup>th</sup> January 2015
J. App. Pharm. Res., 3 (2); 2015: 01 – 07	